

Union's language and rhetoric should be rebuffed
by every American teacher

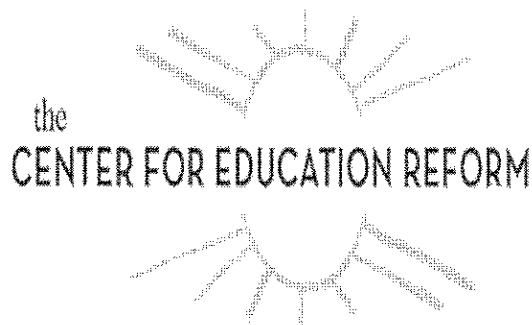
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2017

CONTACT

Michelle Tigani
michelle@edreform.com



**Union Attack on DeVos "Outrageous and Contradictory," CER's
Jeanne Allen Says**

WASHINGTON, DC — Today's attack on Education Secretary nominee Betsy DeVos by the president of the American Federation of Teachers was a "partisan rant by the leader of the first national union to endorse the Democratic nominee in the last election, and they lost," said Jeanne Allen, Founder and CEO of the Center for Education Reform.

AFT President Randi Weingarten accused DeVos, who has played a major role in the expansion of charter schools in her home state of Michigan and in dozens of other states, of being "anti-public-education."

"But *charter schools* **are** *public schools*, they're just not the kinds of public schools that the AFT likes," Allen said. "For the head of an organization that purports to represent teachers by attempting to create fear among them is outrageous and contradictory. She claims that an agenda that promotes school options is anti-public education. The only

thing anti-public education is those who oppose educating the public in any way that best suits the needs of its students."

"That's what the teachers unions have become — a proverbial straw man against anything except the status quo. Their language and rhetoric should be rebuffed by every American teacher who cares about their classroom and their kids," Allen concluded.

About the Center for Education Reform

Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans — particularly our youth — ensuring that the conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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Washington, DC 20036

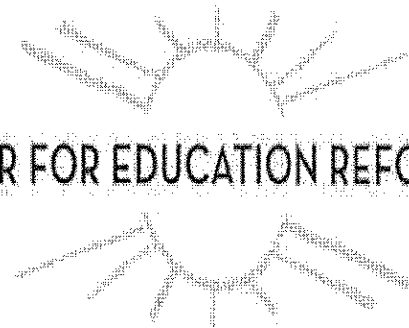
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Another example of the extremes to which unions
will go to prevent education opportunity

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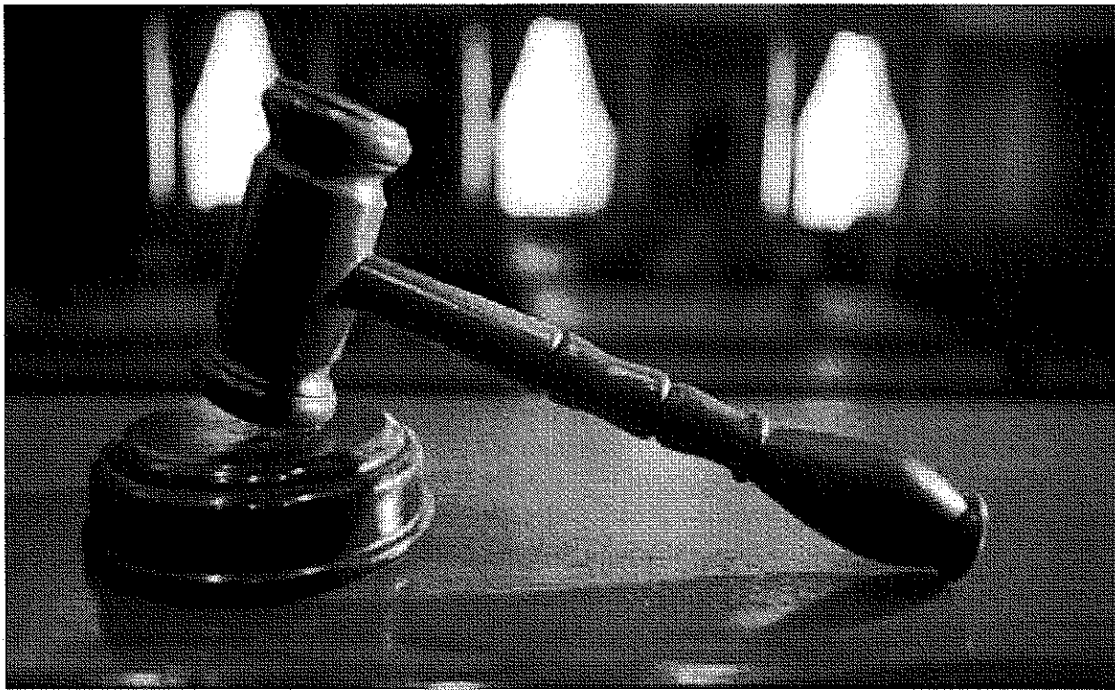
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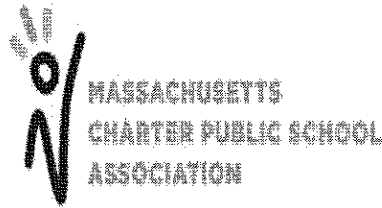
*A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — spiced with a dash
of irreverence — from the nation's leading voice in school reform.*

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BAYOU CHARTER TROUBLE. Yesterday the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal ruled – ridiculously in error of course – that the funding component for charter schools approved by the state (Type 2, they call them) is unconstitutional. The lawsuit was of course brought to you by the teachers union, and is yet another indication of the extremes to which they will go to prevent parents from choosing the schools that will do the best job of educating their children. [More here.](#)



MA CHARTER HYPROCRISY? Though 70 charter schools in Massachusetts have benefitted from the foundational work of people in other states who paved the way for their own law, the leadership of their association has oddly penned a letter to their US Senator, Elizabeth Warren, claiming that their concerns about Michigan's charter schools – unfounded – bring them concern about the nomination of Betsy DeVos, a Michigander, as Trump's Education Secretary. It's mind-boggling that those in the business of education opportunity don't support opportunities of ALL modalities for students – and even sadder that they're upholding misconceptions about Michigan's charter school sector as truth.



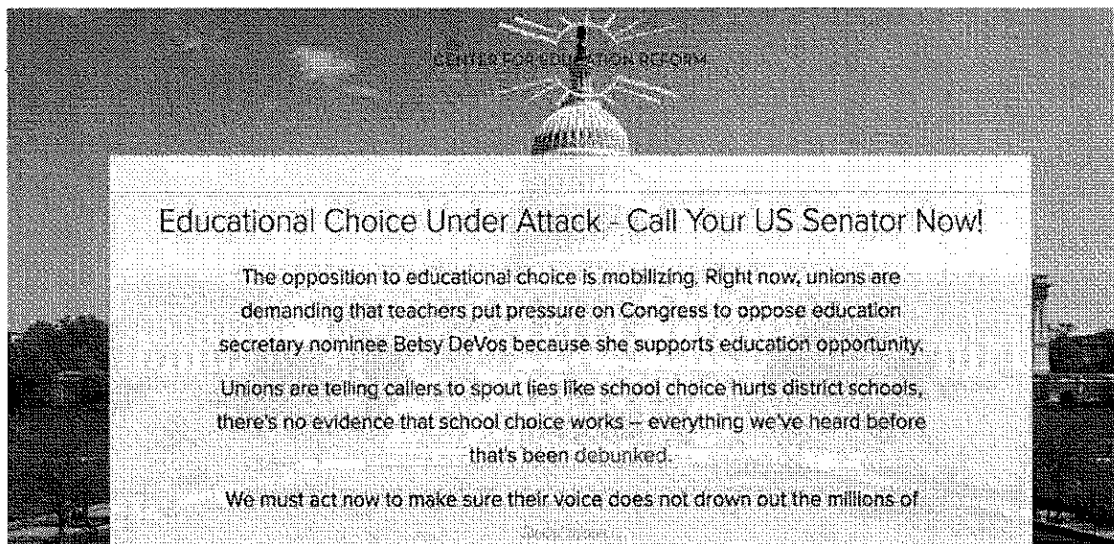
January 9, 2017

Honorable Elizabeth Warren, United States Senator for Massachusetts
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Senator Warren,

As the Association representing the 70 Massachusetts commonwealth charter public schools, we are writing to express our concerns over the nomination of Elisabeth DeVos as U.S.

SPEAKING OF DEVOS. US Education Secretary nominee Betsy DeVos' confirmation hearing has been moved to January 17th at 5pm "at request of Senate leadership to accommodate Senate schedule," according to HELP Committee chair Senator Lamar Alexander. That means more days ahead of "outrageous and contradictory" rhetoric from those in the business of maintaining the status quo. Offender #1, of course, being the AFT, with President Randi Weingarten giving a speech yesterday at the National Press Club designed to scare teachers into calling their US Senators to spout off lies about DeVos' record and educational choice. EdReformers are fighting back — call your US Senator so lies do not outweigh the truth about education opportunity.



FIRST 100 DAYS. Tomorrow the Center will unveil an agenda for federal action that lays out a model at the federal level for education innovation and opportunity. Watch your inbox!



CHOICE IN RURAL USA. Speaking of falsehoods, there's an all too common myth that educational opportunity isn't relevant to rural families and communities. Joe Nathan, senior fellow at the Center for School Change, points out why that's just wrong.



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From: obs5454@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Improving Education

First Name : Daniel

Last Name : Rivera

Address : 101 Slate Dr.

City : Berea

State : OH

Zip : 44017

Phone : 216.577.6047

Email : obs5454@gmail.com

Subject :
Improving Education

Message :
Dear Representative Patton,

I am writing to you in hopes of making positive changes to our education system. I am an educator who primarily votes republican on most elections and issues. In my 15 years of teaching, I have witnessed changes in instruction and testing as well as a culture change in our society (extrinsic vs. intrinsic value) that does not collaborate with the designed goals set forth by both school districts and state administrators. I would like to share two ideas that I have come up with that could help better assess students when it comes to state standardized tests and creating a system of checks that would help families and schools dealing with the societal changes. I believe that these two ideas that I would like to share more in depth would not only strengthen the education in the great state of Ohio, but will also bring those to your side who are currently against you. This is a big risk I am taking since my desire to meet with you could strain my relations with the AFT (American Federation of Teachers) but I truly believe that improving education is more important than hurt feelings.

Sincerely,
Daniel Rivera

From: obs5454@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 1:06 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: improving education

First Name : Daniel

Last Name : Rivera

Address : 101 Slate Dr.

City : Berea

State : OH

Zip : 44017

Phone : 216.577.6047

Email : obs5454@gmail.com

Subject :
improving education

Message :
Dear Representative Patton,

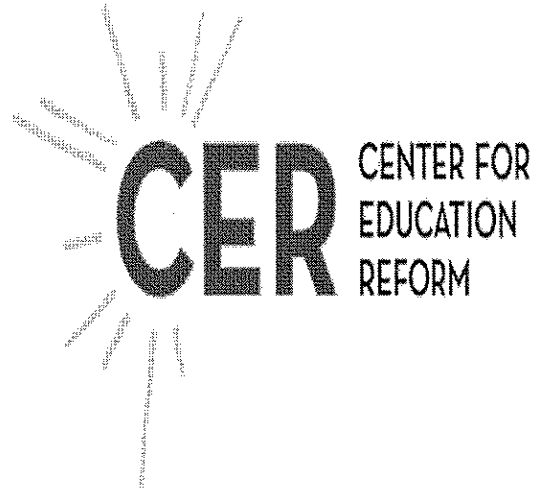
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Sincerely,
Daniel Rivera

In the White House, and across states, education in the spotlight... this week in CER Newswire.

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A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — spiced with a dash of irreverence — from the nation's leading voice in school reform.

CER NEWSWIRE: APRIL 11, 2017

Education is hot today in Washington. 17 CEOs are at the White House, scheduled to talk about issues ranging from education & infrastructure (note: we think they go together). The Atlantic's 3rd annual ideas summit is up and running and we're happy to see the presence of Derrell Bradford to balance that of Randi Weingarten. Education choice is, like the pollen count, spreading into the ether, and more...

A TALKING POINT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE & THE CEOS. Imagine combining needed improvements in rural infrastructure in those red states that so handily won the race for Trump with expanded and improved educational options, and private sector development of teacher villages to attract talent. That should be what is on the national agenda today. "Until educational, social and economic policies are implemented with rural communities in mind, rural

citizens should continue to work to break down barriers for more socially just rural schools and communities in the same way that urban citizens have.” That’s the argument from a Penn State Professor for one piece of the puzzle improving rural communities - “The Unique case for rural charter schools.” . Together with providing much needed flexibility for school districts to innovate and incentives for public private partnerships, a commitment to rural America could make today’s meeting truly pathbreaking.

MEANWHILE OVER AT THE NEWSEUM... The Atlantic is hosting its education summit, conducting interviews of newsmakers in education as a look into what’s next for edreform. AFT head Randi Weingarten was on the same stage (sadly, not together) with long time ed reformer Derrell Bradford. Watch here.

OH, WHAT? Asked for comment following a discussion on charters, Weingarten lamented, “Oh god...,” and went on to claim the schools were the AFT’s idea. *Not so!* The real origin?

#BLACKDEGREESMATTER. If you want to know what parents and students really think about school choice, check out this piece from the Philadelphia Citizen.

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CHOICE SPREADS. It’s been imbedded deeper and deeper in the environment, and in a society that is all about advancement, after 26 years you’d expect to reach a tipping point. By now it should be clear: education must evolve at the pace of its nation.

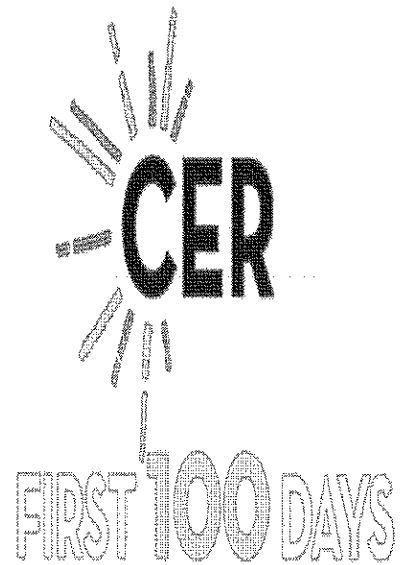
The latest spread is in pioneering Arizona, where a universally available new choice program will allow 5,500 additional students this year and 30,000 by

2022 to sign up for Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, giving them access to programs that biggest meet their children's needs.

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FACTS

SUCCESS, INNOVATION,
AND OPPORTUNITY
IN CHARTER SCHOOLS

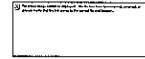


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tim Sullivan July 20,
2017

Contact:

tim@edreform.com

**STATEMENT BY JEANNE ALLEN, FOUNDER AND
CEO** in response to AFT president's remarks*

"Weingarten Comments Deeply Offensive"

**Union leader's attack on parents and others who support
school choice is hateful and should not stand**

"AFT president Randi Weingarten's characterization of education reform parents and advocates as racists akin to the southern segregationists of the past, is not just ill-advised hyperbole, it is a deeply offensive, highly inflammatory insult to all the parents and people of all races, backgrounds, and regions – who have worked to bring options, opportunities, and reforms to an education system that has failed them for generations.

"Weingarten's allies should disavow these comments, and America's teachers should look into their hearts, consider whether this is the type of language and leadership they want as being representative of their views and voice, and consider inviting Weingarten's resignation."

* *(as reported July 20, 2017 in USA Today)*

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ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S.
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"Regardless of whether or not it was an act of insensitive ignorance, or ruthless political calculation, Weingarten should step down as head of the AFT."

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Contact:

July 25,
2017

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STATEMENT: Allen Renews Call for Union Leader to Step Down

"Randi Weingarten's smug obstinacy in refusing to accept responsibility for her slur against reform is disturbing. [[U.S. News & World Report, July 24, 2017](#)] Clearly, she believes staying on message is more important than honesty, fairness, respect and simple decency."

"She knows that the modern-era education reform movement has its origins in efforts led by such people as [Fannie Lewis](#), an African-American Cleveland City Councilwoman and grandmother of the Cleveland Scholarship Program enacted in 1995, and Wisconsin State Rep. [Polly Williams](#). In 1990, [she did the same in Milwaukee](#). Neither had any connection whatsoever with segregationists. Weingarten knows it, yet she refuses to amend her remarks, and continues to impugn the reputations and accomplishments of these women, and to discredit the hopes, dreams and work of school choice advocates everywhere by insulting them and their motives."

"Weingarten may have been taken aback by the reaction her hate speech generated but even more so, it has been made abundantly clear that her words were offensive, she is not apologetic or even contrite. Her only reaction is to reiterate the 'truth' of her noxious statement, as she and her political advisors carefully spin it, and to blame ideological enemies and shadowy conspirators for the criticism she has received."

"It is also possible that she was not at all surprised by the reaction and that it was her intention baiting to blow-up the school choice discussion.

"Regardless of whether or not it was an act of insensitive ignorance, or ruthless political calculation, Weingarten should step down as head of the AFT."

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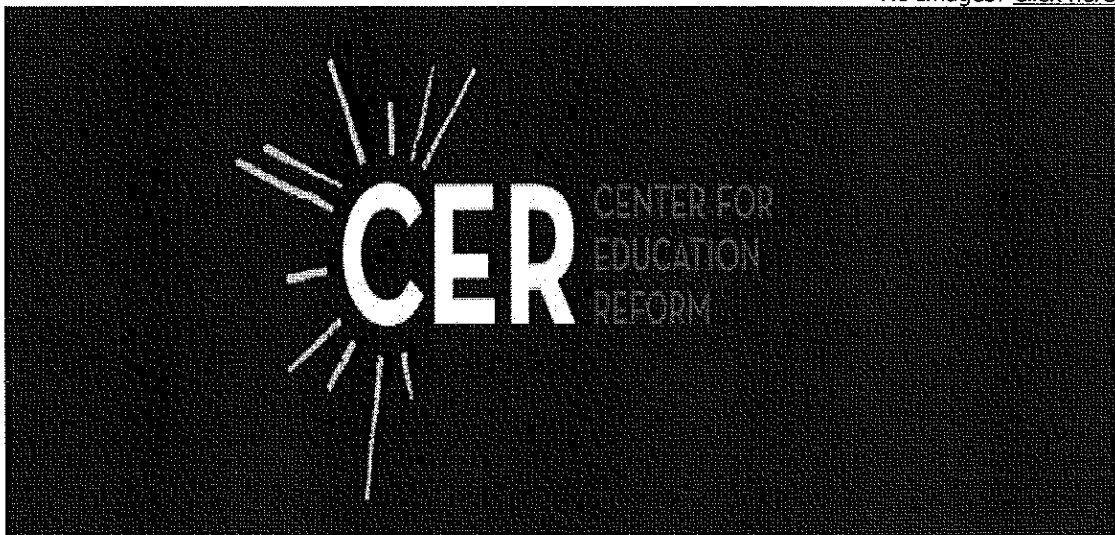


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THE GREATEST HITS OF 2017 SO FAR...

...but before we get to that, a couple of late-breaking notes from a mid-summer swirl of ed-related news

SMART ALEC. It was great to attend the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting that went off in Denver last week. The program featured Education and Workforce Development Task Force meetings on K-12 and Higher Education and a workshop on the data and trends on school choice. Model policies were presented, covering education savings accounts, scholarship tax credits, and the protection of free speech in higher education. And there was a policy discussion and debate between representatives from the American Federation of Children and the Heritage Foundation the federal role in

advancing school choice. (Included in the discussion from Heritage: an option to repurpose a federal Impact aid program into student-centered, parent-controlled education savings accounts that would provide active-duty military families with education choice. Hmmm.)

BLOWIN' UP ON TWITTER. As you may have heard AFT president Randi Weingarten went all in on race baiting at the union's annual summer meeting calling tuition tax credits and the like "only slightly more polite cousins of segregation." Some took exception to her insulting, hateful insinuation and said she should resign. She took exception to the exception. In all seriousness, Weingarten's warped opinions on this matter are abhorrent and, we hope, in no way reflect the views of union members. This isn't just a kerfuffle; it's a thing. Weingarten needs to go.

We're waiting for her next blow up. The Lone Star State's Senate Education Committee passed two key bills last Friday, including one that would create a scholarship program for students looking to enroll in private school. We're awaiting Randi Weingarten's statement calling all who voted for the measures racists.

...And now, back to our previously scheduled programming

A NOTICE FROM SCOTUS. One of the bigger deals leading up the Summer of 2017 was the Supreme Court's Trinity Lutheran Decision. Trinity Lutheran had been denied funding from the state of Missouri for a playground surface solely because its school is a religious one. The lower court had relied on the Blaine Amendment that dates back to the 1800's which prohibits the use of public funds at sectarian institutions. The decision that Trinity Lutheran's "exclusion from a public benefit is "odious to our Constitution" and "a clear infringement on free exercise" has ramifications for the future of educational choice, further opening the door for parents to decide the best educational opportunities for their children, be they private, religious or public in nature.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'. A big deal in California, too, when the makeup of the LA School Board flipped to a majority of charter supporters for first time ever. The election included victories for charter school proponents Nick Melvoin—in District 4 in the West San Fernando Valley, over incumbent School Board President Steve Zimmer who was supported by public service employee unions—and Kelly Gonez in District 6, East San Fernando Valley.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC TO OUR EARS. Back in March, Kentucky became the 44th state to allow charter schools. Great news, albeit tempered by the fact that the law could have, and should have, been stronger. Still, half a loaf is better than none. The bill allows both local school districts and the mayors of Lexington and Louisville to authorize an unlimited number of charter schools, most of which are not likely to open until 2018-2019.

SPRING THAW. In April, Minnesota passed an Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program. The program enables students to receive \$7500 opportunity scholarships, creating more choice for low income and working-class families.

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BIG FUN DOWN ON THE BAYOU. In May, Louisiana's Senate Education Committee defeated legislation that sought to weaken the Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP). Senate Bill 13 would have placed restrictions on the eligibility of Kindergarten students entering the LSP. As every student in the program comes from a low-income family with 89% minority representation, the scholarship creates opportunities for Louisiana's most vulnerable students.

MEANWHILE IN THE HEARTLAND. May also was when the Nebraska School Choice Bill moved forward. The bill, which is expected to go to a vote in January would allow up to \$2 million in tax credits in its first year, creating more educational opportunities for more of the Heartland's children.

SAY "CHEESE." In June Wisconsin Badgers were all smiles when the State Assembly followed the Senate's lead by passing (in bi-partisan fashion mind you) a bill that increases accountability and enhances efficiencies in the state's school choice programs. The bill calls for greater financial accountability and also revises the financing formula so that special needs scholarship students receive more funding.

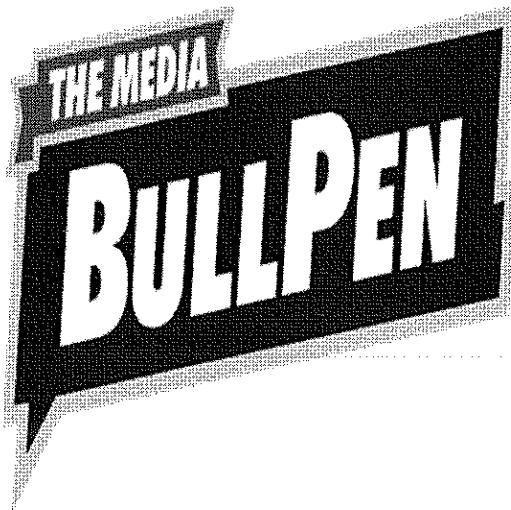
DIAMONDBACK DEALINGS. In April Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed SB1431 within hours of the legislation passing both the House and Senate yesterday. Now all Arizona children will, over the course of four years, become eligible to apply for the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program that allows education dollars to follow each individual child to the school or learning environment they need.

TOMORROW IS HERE. In May, Teachers of Tomorrow was approved as alternative route to certification in SC. The program is helping the Palmetto state to address its teacher shortage with a new pipeline of enthusiastic educators.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND! To give direction to, and spur action by, the new administration, back in January CER issued "The First Hundred Days: The path to going bold on education innovation & opportunity." Of course, as with Rome, reform wasn't accomplished in such a short time so, to hold everyone's feet to the fire, in June CER presented a scorecard on actions to date, and re-issued its call to action in Beyond the First 100 Days: Transforming government's role in education. There is a HUGE opportunity to finally achieve substantive education reform at the federal level...if we don't lose our way. 100 Days is a roadmap that can keep everyone on track.

REDISCOVERING REFORM. Also in June CER issued Charting a New Course challenging the education reform movement to refocus on the real core principle of reform: the right of parents. The collection of essays explores how school choice and the charter school movements have evolved, or mutated,

and now consist of two camps: one that relies on bureaucracies and officialdom to decide what educational options are best for kids, and one that relies on innovators and parents. As previously noted, the former sounds A LOT like the status-quo-education-establishment arguments that have been reform's bane from the beginning; while the latter sounds like, well, one of the core principles on which reform was founded. [Read it here.](#)



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For more, check out the [Media Bullpen.](#)

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

This week's #SchoolChoice highlights you might have missed.

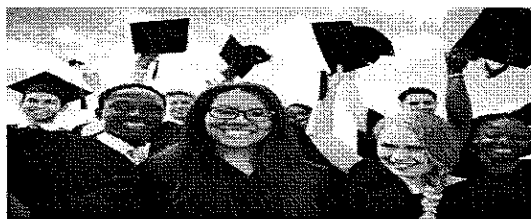
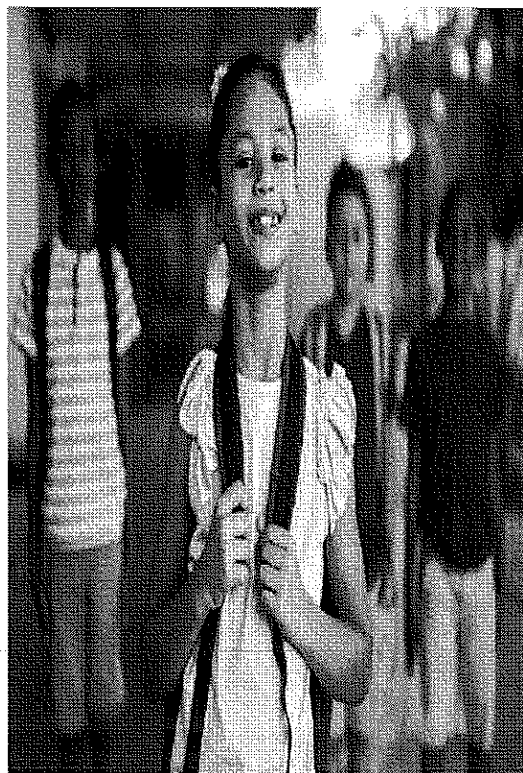
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A History Lesson on School Choice

Education reformers have been pushing back against Randi Weingarten's inflammatory remarks at the AFT summer conference earlier this month, where she said the "use of privatization, coupled with disinvestment are only slightly more polite cousins of segregation."

See responses from [Howard Fuller](#), [Kevin Chavous](#) and [Derrell Bradford](#), [Andrew Rotherham](#), [Peter Cunningham](#), [Jeanne Allen](#) and [Travis Pillow](#).



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Charter Graduates Get a Leg Up in College

The [NAACP](#) and [NEA](#) believe charters should be stopped. But [Richard Whitmire](#) explained, "the timing of the intertwined anticharter campaigns, however, may prove awkward because of [new data](#)." This new data verifies that students from major charter networks are graduating college at three to five times the national average.



Phil Bryant
@PhilBryantMS

School choice in Mississippi is not going anywhere. It's only going to grow. #NCF17

11:56am · 27 Jul 2017 · Twitter Web Client



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@MackinacCenter

Amiah's Story: How #SchoolChoice and a Job Got Her on Track
[youtube.com/watch?v=24Fsmu...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24Fsmu...)

3:14pm · 27 Jul 2017 · TweetDeck

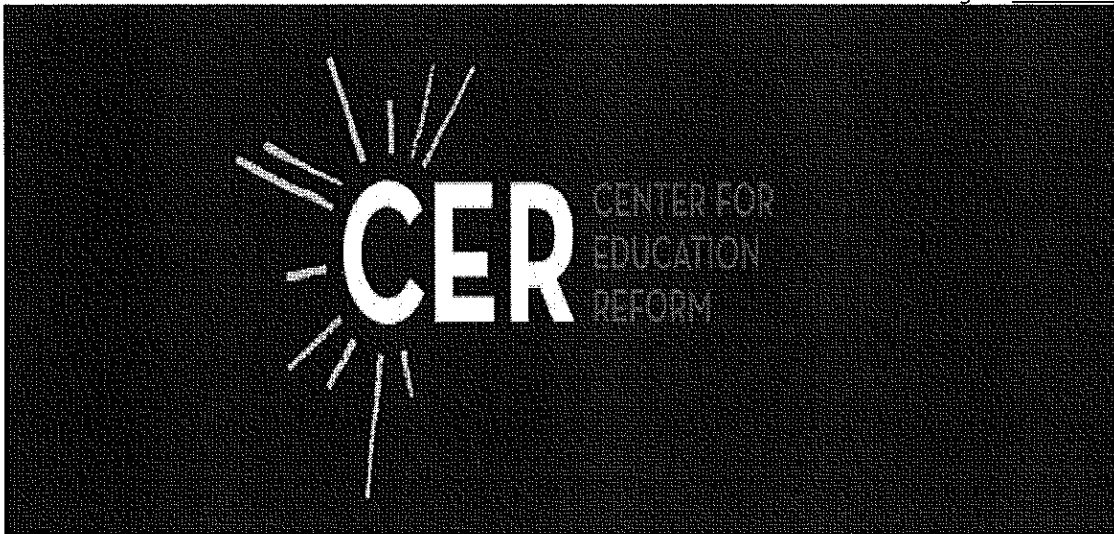


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FIRESTORM. AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST NAACP'S EDUCATION QUALITY HEARING REPORT. The NAACP's recent report on education quality, which challenges the value of charter schools for minority families has African American ed reform leaders in an uproar. Two of the most prominent to speak out: CER directors David Hardy, founder and Chair of Boys' Latin Philadelphia Charter School, and Donald Hense, founder and chairman of Washington D.C.'s Friendship Public Charter Schools. In a statement released through CER, these long-time advocates for options for

disadvantaged youth describe the NAACP's campaign against charter schools as an obstacle to opportunity that only serves to stifle a movement, that for thousands of children, is the greatest – and only – hope for achieving a quality education. Read their full statement here:

<https://www.edreform.com/2017/07/african-american-education-leaders-speak-out-against-naacp-actions/>

WHAT A GREAT QUESTION! Would Martin Luther King Have Supported Charter Schools? = **A** That's the question pondered by the man who served as the civil rights legend's chief of staff in the 1960's, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker. According to Dr. Walker, the question is easily answered with a resounding "yes!" Check out "A Light Shines in Harlem", an award winning, must-read about Dr. Walker's founding of The Sisulu-Walker School, New York City's first charter school.

AFT OFF BASE AND OUT OF TOUCH. In another firestorm that won't go out, CER's Jeanne Allen renewed the call for AFT president Randi Weingarten to step down. As you'll recall, the union boss smeared choice advocates, ed reform pioneers, and basically all parents who embrace options for their children by likening them to racists and segregationists. Weingarten hasn't backed away from her statement and is standing behind the "truth" of her assertion, prompting this from Allen: "Randi Weingarten's smug obstinacy in refusing to accept responsibility for her slur against reformers is disturbing. Clearly, she believes staying on message—no matter how insulting that message is to African-Americans and people of color throughout the nation—is more important than honesty, fairness, respect and simple decency."

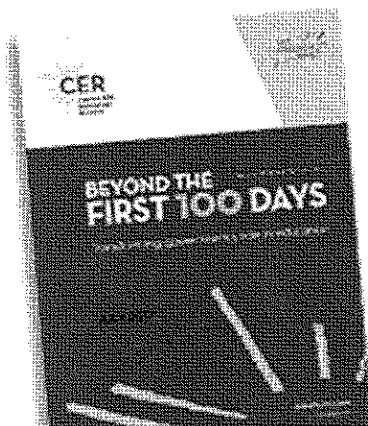
A RISING TIDE LIFTS BOTH BOATS. Charter school opponents like to claim that the presence of a charter school in a community results in less funding being directed to neighboring traditional public schools (TPS). But a new study of NYC public schools now says otherwise. The Temple University study reveals that having a charter school in the neighborhood spurs competition and consequently generates more per-pupil funding for the

traditional public school with an increase of 9% when the charter and TPS are in the same building and 2% when they are physically further apart. So there goes that argument.

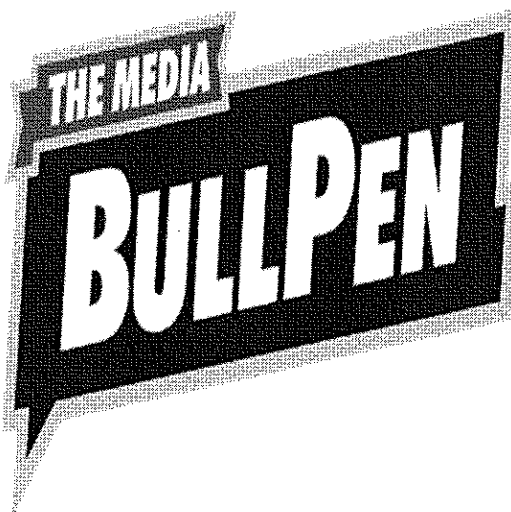
SPACE, THE FINAL FRONTIER. NASA is making efforts to encourage more girls and women to study STEM and prepare for careers in aerospace and other sciences. To give credit where credit is due, NASA's move is in response to President Trump's Inspire Women Act, which he signed into law back in February. NASA is also creating other programs to advance STEM studies, including NASA GIRLS & BOYS, a program that provides middle school students with a virtual mentorship with NASA employees.

WELL THAT'S INTERESTING: suburban kids pay tuition to attend DC public schools. While choice opponents like to argue that educational choice is all about taking money away from public schools so that students can attend private or parochial schools, public schools like the DC based Duke Ellington School of the Arts are turning that supposed paradigm on its head. 45 suburban families are currently plunking out \$11,000 a year in tuition to send their children to the Northwest DC school. And if it were not for a 10% cap on out-of-district students, that enrollment statistic would be even higher.

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Beyond the First 100 Days: Transforming government's role in education is both a review of progress to date, a reiteration of its January, 2017 recommendations to the Trump Administration, and an extension on the work that must be performed. [Read here](#) if you haven't already.



For more, check out the [Media Bullpen](#).

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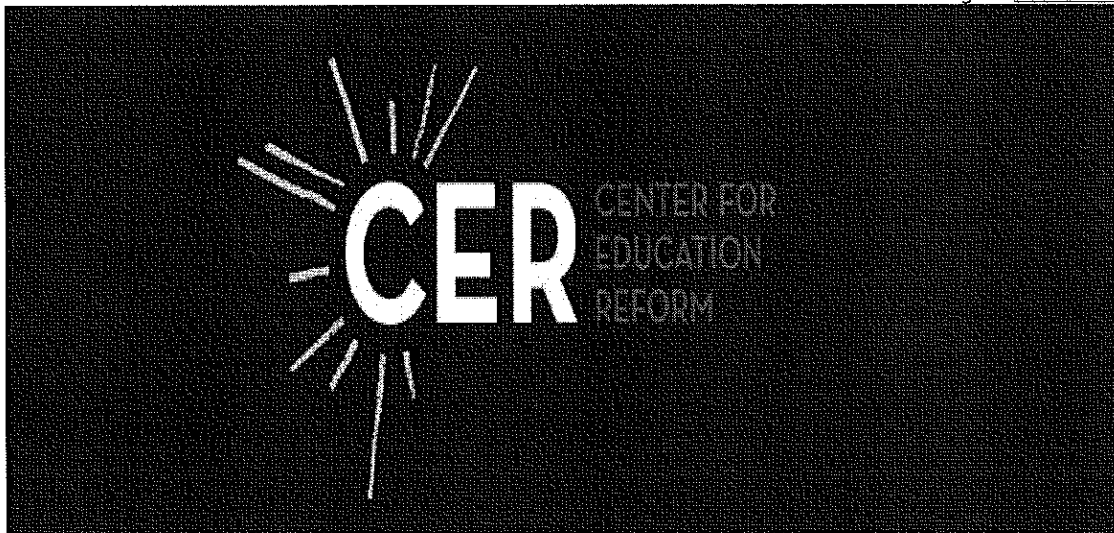
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EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

OPPORTUNITY'S OPPONENT....but were afraid to ask. The NAACP's report on charters has set off a firestorm of criticism from charter leaders across the country. CER directors Donald Hense and David Hardy [released as statement](#) decrying the association's conclusions, saying it put the association "...sadly, and uncharacteristically, on the wrong side of history." They weren't alone in their criticism. See what others had to say [here](#):

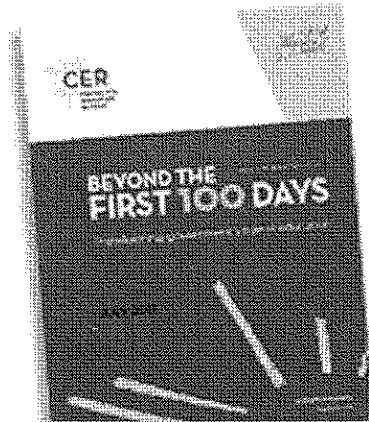
CHARTERS HELP DC STUDENTS SUCCEED. D.C. Association of Chartered Public Schools has added its voice to the choir of organizations speaking out against the NAACP's recent report painting charter schools as inappropriate academic options for minority students. As they point out, prior to the establishment of the charter school movement in the 1990's, only 50% of African American students graduated from high school on schedule. Today, 73% of African American students attending charter schools graduate on time versus 62% in traditional public schools.

OPPONENTS OF OPPORTUNITY TARGET ARIZONA. Save Our Schools Arizona now has 100,000 signatures of registered voters exceeding the 75,321 needed to stop the expansion of the state's Empowerment Scholarship Program. The expansion which would enable 30,000 of Arizona's 1.1 million public school students to join the program by 2022 is scheduled to take effect on Wednesday August 9. Save Our Schools may be saving "schools", but in doing so, they are limiting Arizona children's opportunities to attend the schools which best meet their individual needs.

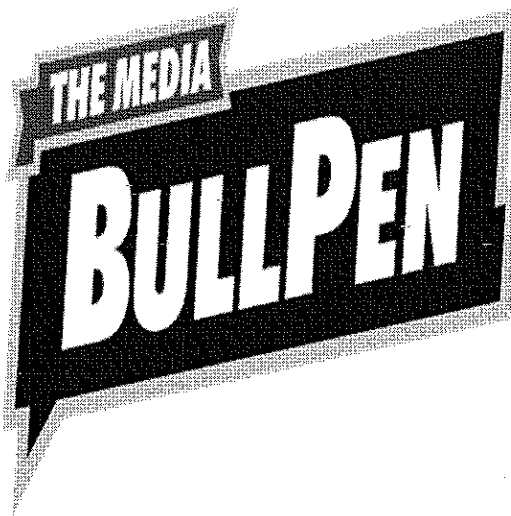
SAY CHEESE! School Choice Wisconsin (SCW) and Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty have released a new study which shows that schools participating in Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) have improved their accountability as it relates to academic performance, fiscal management and school safety. Consequently, more parents are gravitating to the schools with most solid and most transparent accountability measures.

AND, ON THE LEFT COAST, PERSONALIZED LEARNING IS THE NEW FEATURE IN TEACHER TRAINING Northern California based Summit Learning has launched the first teacher-in-residence program dedicated to personalized learning. The teaching residents will spend four days a week working alongside a teacher in Summit's eight middle and high schools located in Sunnyvale, Redwood City, El Cerrito/Richmond, San Jose, and Daly City.

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Contrary to Union Rhetoric, School Voucher Programs Help to Integrate Schools

A report released in July 2017 by the Center for American Progress (CAP), a progressive think tank, titled *The Racist Origins of Private School Vouchers*, claims the programs originated in the “massive resistance” of Southern states to school integration.

The authors use the example of Prince Edward County in Virginia to cast the entire history of school vouchers as “sordid.” In response to the Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board* (1954) to end segregation in public schools, Prince Edward County shut down all its public schools and gave white families

vouchers for use at all-white private schools. Ultimately, there were roughly 100,000 students taking part of these vouchers in Dixie by the dawn of the 1970s.

CAP's release party for the paper was co-sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers, the heavy-spending union with a vested financial interest in opposing voucher programs to protect the monopoly position of the government-run schools that employ its members, and AFT President Randi Weingarten, alluding to the report, called vouchers the "polite cousin of segregation" in a speech at AFT's national conference that same week.

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Of course, what happened in Prince Edward County and elsewhere in the South at the tail end of Jim Crow is part of the voucher story and deserving of reprobation, but it is not the origin of the voucher story, and it is certainly not the whole of the voucher story.

As Frederick M. Hess of the American Enterprise Institute pointed out in a piece for *National Review Online* the call for school vouchers can be traced back to Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man* in 1791-92, with an assist from John Stuart Mill in 1859's *On Liberty*. "[Government] might leave to parents to obtain the education where and how they pleased, and content itself with helping to pay the school fees of the poorer classes of children, and defraying the entire school expenses of those who have no one else to pay for them," Mill wrote.

However, the modern voucher ur-text was Nobel-winning economist Milton Friedman's 1955 essay "The Role of Government in Education," although an example of a voucher program was already on the books in the form of the GI Bill by the time Friedman's essay was published. Pell Grants, another voucher, would follow a decade after Friedman's essay. The first modern voucher program, established in Milwaukee in 1990, was championed by black Democrats like state Senator Polly Williams, and polling of black voters routinely puts support for vouchers and other forms of school choice in the majority.

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In practice, voucher programs have been a vehicle for integration. According to EdChoice, since 1999, there have been 10 studies "using valid empirical methods" looking into how vouchers have affected school segregation in Cleveland, Milwaukee, the District of Columbia, and Louisiana. Of these, *not a single empirical study* shows voucher programs led to increased segregation.

Nine out of the 10 studies found the voucher programs actually moved students into schools that were more integrated, while the other showed the voucher was having no net effect.

“Public schools are intractably segregated by race, mostly because students are assigned to schools based on where they live,” EdChoice wrote. “School choice has the potential to break down those residential barriers.” Long-term research also shows minority students in voucher programs are 35 percent more likely to obtain a bachelor’s degree than their public school peers.

Because of their popularity with parents, voucher programs have seen consistent growth since 1990, and there are now 26 separate voucher programs in operation in 15 states and the District of Columbia, giving over 178,000 students access to the school that best suits their unique needs and helping to integrate schools.

You can find additional documents providing more information on vouchers and education choice [here](#).

Nothing in this *Research & Commentary* is intended to influence the passage of legislation, and it does not necessarily represent the views of The Heartland Institute. For further information on this subject, visit [School Reform News](#), The Heartland Institute’s [website](#), and [PolicyBot](#), Heartland’s free online research database.

The Heartland Institute can send an expert to your state to testify or brief your caucus; host an event in your state; or send you further information on a topic. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance! If you have any questions or comments, contact John Nothdurft, Heartland’s director of government relations, at john@heartland.org or 312/377-4000.

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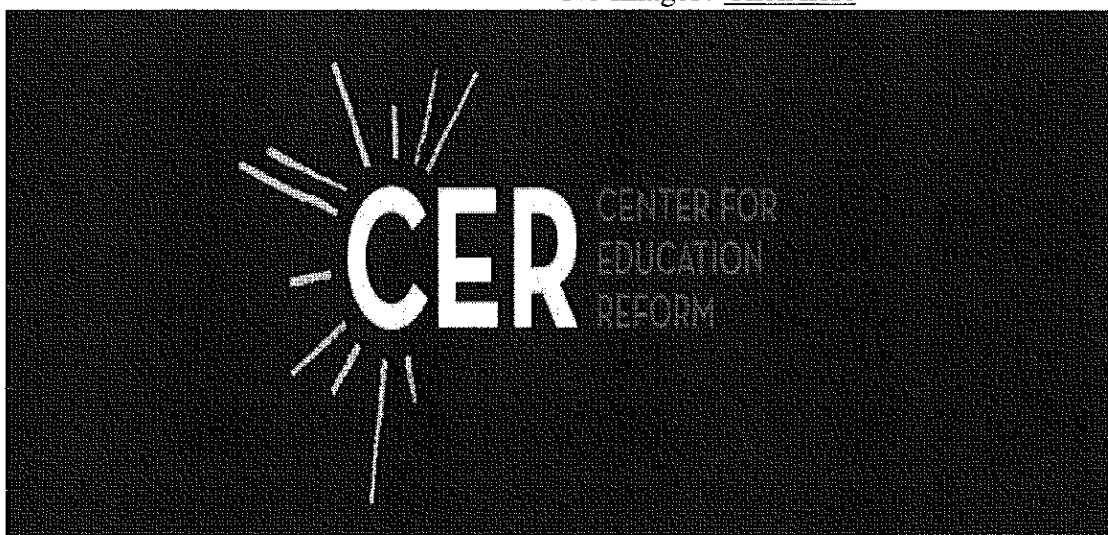
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JUSTICE FOR ALL – A MESSAGE FROM CER'S DIRECTORS.

Since 1993, the Center for Education Reform (CER) has worked to advance a bold agenda to help our nation's children achieve the education they deserve.

We fight hard and relentlessly for education opportunity because we know that education not only paves the way for everyone to participate in the future, but it is a critical antidote to ignorance, to racism, to hatred. Education of the mind encompasses history, education of the soul encompasses the virtues of compassion and courage.

As tragic national and international events swirl around us, we believe the most important role CER can play is to address the shortcomings of education in this nation, for all learners, at all levels. There is inequity in our educational system, and no matter what solution you believe works best, it is the cause of many of our biggest challenges.

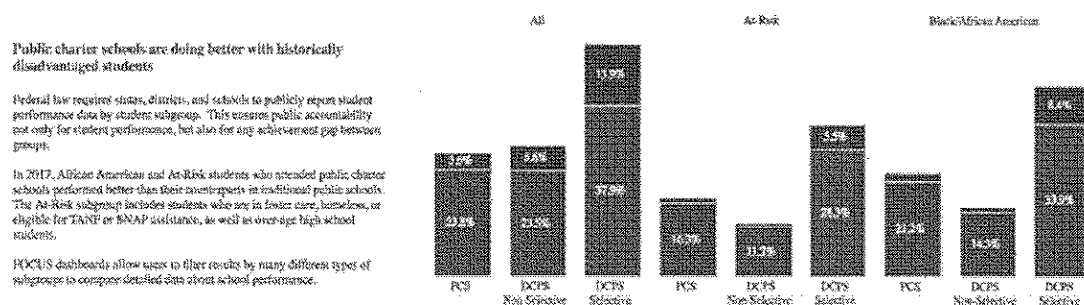
The entire education reform movement was born out of this knowledge – that education is the key to helping our young people achieve civilized, productive lives in which they can live peacefully and freely, pursuing their own ambitions, and that we must do whatever it takes, with urgency to get them the schools that will help them achieve exactly that.

As we watch our most precious resources go back to school, we recommit ourselves to excellence, equity and justice for all.

OF ANNUAL POLLS. OF ANNUAL POLLS. Lots of news about what Americans think. First, Education Next released its annual poll on education issues, which you can find [here](#), and which we reflected on here: "[The EdNext Poll: The Case for a Moral Imperative](#)"

Then the [Gallup Organization](#) released [another poll](#) with many questions they've asked before on education ([read our statement here](#)). Among them was whether or not Americans are satisfied with the quality of education our students receive. A majority remain dissatisfied with education in general but not their own. They also believe private and charter schools work better for kids than public schools (though it would have helped to distinguish between charters and traditional public schools since charters are public... but we digress...). The poll is chock full of interesting tidbits but the bottom line is data is more important than opinion and the data still shows us lagging dramatically. More on that and polls, coming soon.

VERY COOL FOR SCHOOL. Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS) has introduced an updated dashboard tool that includes 2017 results on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment. The tool is not just a number-cruncher's dream, it's an incredibly useful resource for the non-data-philies among us since it allows one to filter results by sector, school, year, grade, and subgroup and actually understand the meaning behind the numbers.



DC SCHOOLS DO BETTER. Ten years after Michelle Rhee took DC by storm and united with civic and community leaders to add performance to the DC union contract, DC schools are showing progress on the same assessments. Much more needs to be done, of course, but giving credit where credit is due, the moral of the story so far is that systems can improve their lot for all kids if they challenge the status quo.

CER & RANDI IN THE NEWS - AGAIN. AFT's Randi Weingarten just won't give up. Rather than apologize for her racist rant at this summer's AFT convention earlier this summer she continues to promote her alternative version of history. It is clear that she is making a calculated effort to twist the debate over educational opportunities in ways that are not only dishonest and distasteful, but destructive. When Weingarten first delivered her remarks in July, CER called her out, and called for her resignation. Last week we took her to task again in The Wall Street Journal, under the headline "Randi Weingarten's Racial Demagoguery."

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MAKING LINCOLN PROUD. Tomorrow, August 30, Governor Bruce Rauner (R-IL) could sign into law new path-breaking legislation creating the state's first tax credit scholarship program, part of the state's new education funding bill. The \$75 million tax credit scholarship program could serve as many as 20,000 students and will be the nation's largest first-year school choice program. Designed to help low and working-class families, the program is a result of a bipartisan compromise and demonstrates that even in the darkest of blue states, legislative leaders, with strong leadership from the Governor, can produce real results for kids.

CER's Jeanne Allen issued the following statement:

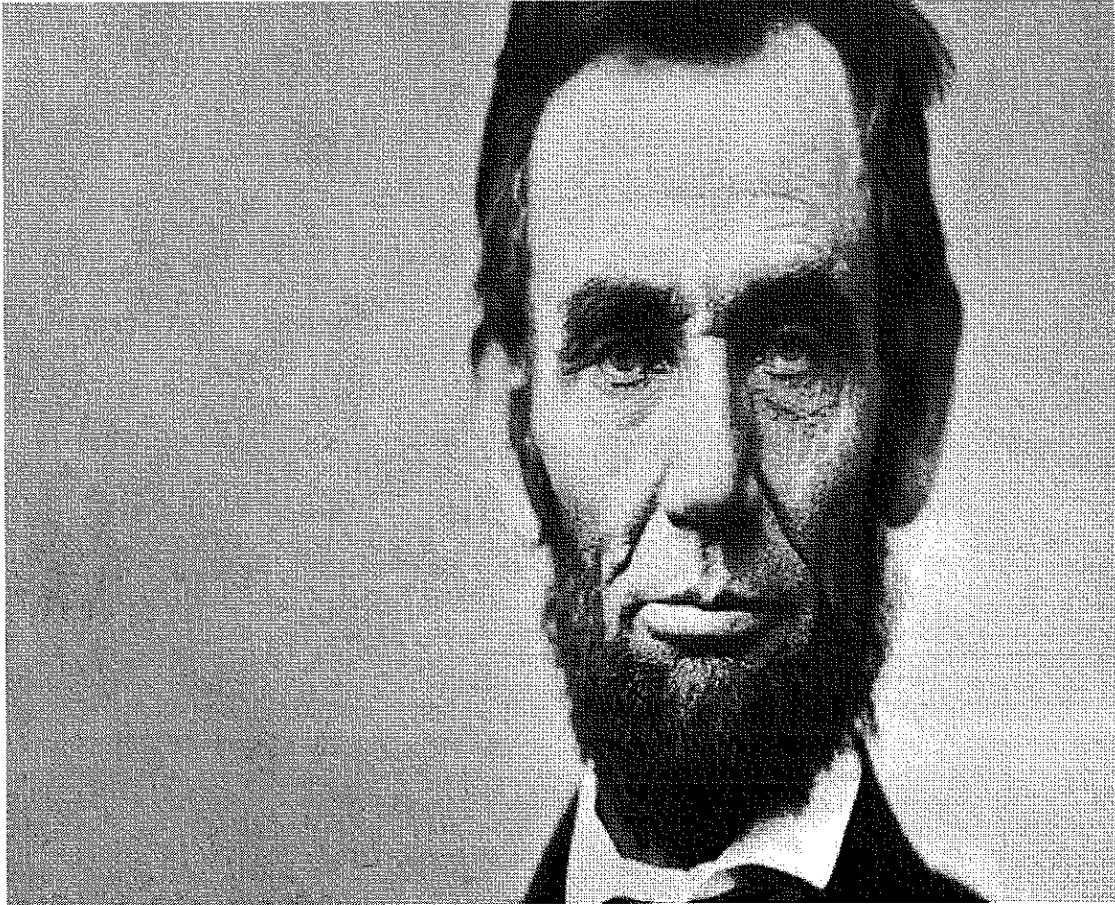
"Illinois joins dozens of other states that have put partisanship aside to address the needs of thousands of students. Gov. Rauner, Speaker Madigan, Majority Leader Cullerton, and Republican Leaders Durkin and Brady all deserve applause for their leadership and commitment to children."

IL Secretary of Education Beth Purvis applauded the General Assembly, saying,

"Today the Illinois General Assembly passed historic education funding reform that will ensure that Illinois public schools are adequately and equitably funded. In addition, this legislation -- which is a direct result of Governor Rauner's School Funding Reform Commission -- provides school choice in the form of equitable funding for charter schools and tax credit scholarships."

For more information about the program, contact our friends at [OneChanceIllinois](http://OneChanceIllinois.org)

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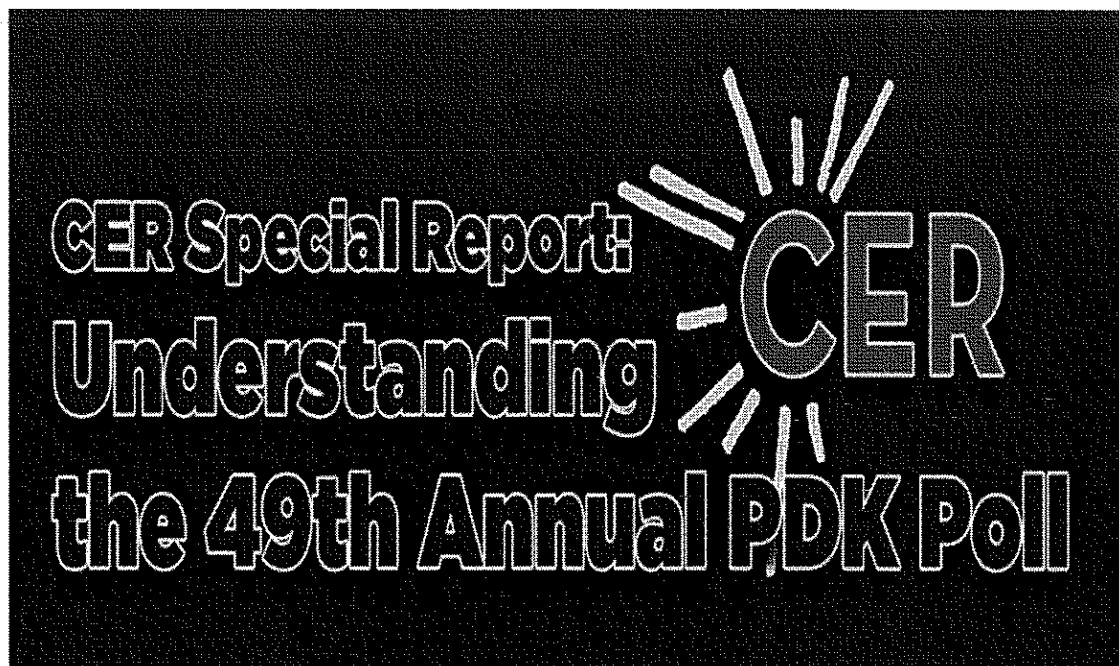
IN LINCOLN'S OWN WORDS.

"Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in. That every man may receive at least, a moderate education, and thereby be enabled to read the histories of his own and other countries, by which he may duly appreciate the value of our free institutions, appears to be an object of vital importance, even on this account alone, to say nothing of the advantages and satisfaction to be derived from all being able to read the scriptures and other works, both of a religious and moral nature, for themselves. For my part, I desire to see the time when education, and by its means, morality, sobriety, enterprise and industry, shall become much more

general than at present, and should be gratified to have it in my power to contribute something to the advancement of any measure which might have a tendency to accelerate the happy period."

- March 9, 1832, First Political Announcement

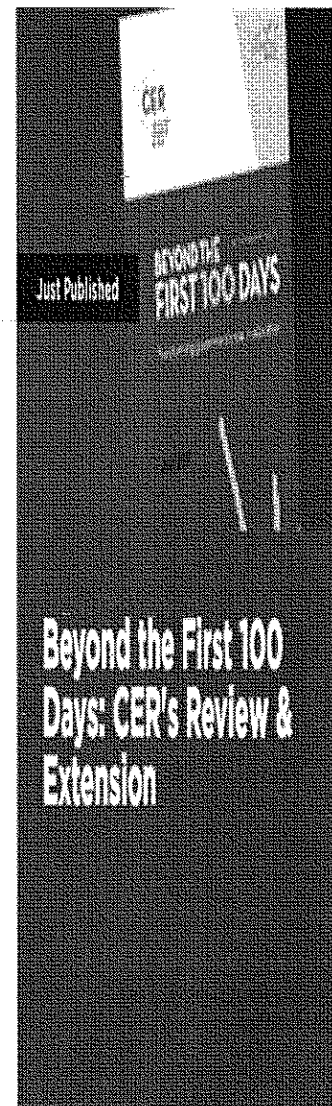
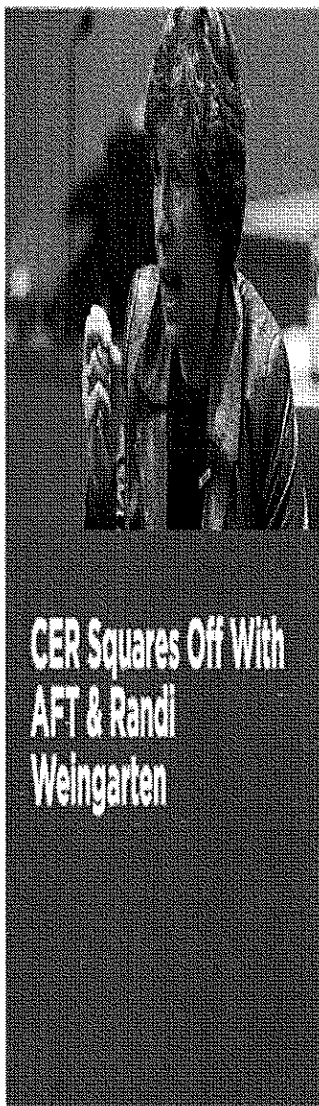
ANNUAL ATTITUDES. Sadly Lincoln's sentiment is not the theme of the 2017 PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, the headline of which is, "**Academic achievement isn't the only mission**" of public schools. If you take the questions and answers literally, Americans do indeed appear united in numerous ways in their belief that schools must prepare students more fully and broadly for life. But while that's the theme, it's not at all clear from this poll that they reject the value of knowledge as important for that preparation.



Read CER's Special Report on the PDK poll to learn more about how to make sense of the latest in public opinion, and what you need to know to help all

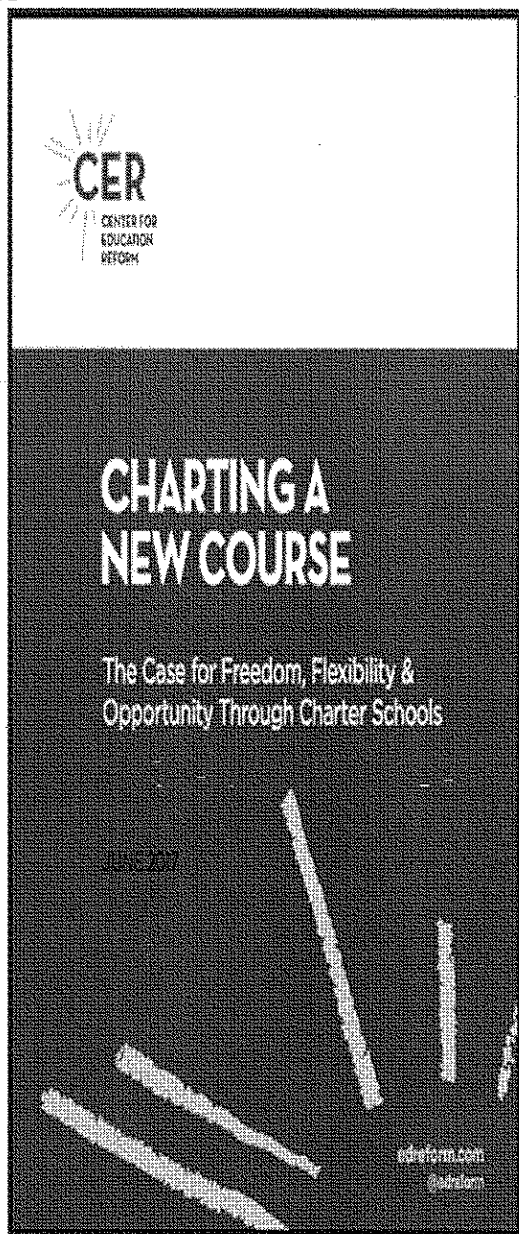
students learn, in the words of Honest Abe, to "duly appreciate the value of our free institutions."

AND IN CASE YOU MISSED IT. Log onto EdReform.com for the latest on the AFT Chronicles or the ongoing effort by African-American leaders to show they have a different point of view on educational opportunity than many established organizations who claim to represent their views.



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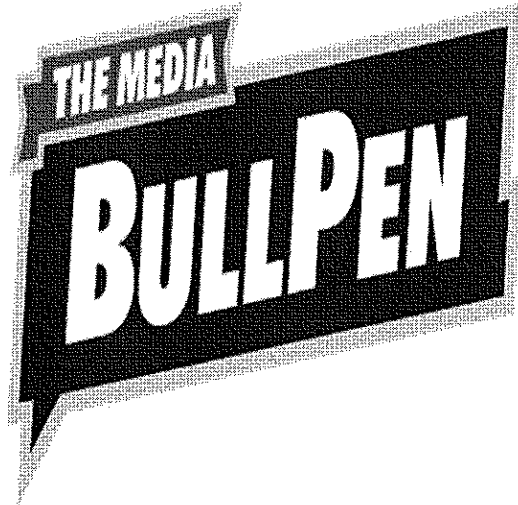
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Charting A New Course: *The Case for Freedom, Flexibility & Opportunity Through Charter Schools*

The charter school debate will look very different in the years to come. For the first quarter century, the question was simple: you're either for charter schools or against them. But now that the sector has matured, taken root, and gained broader public acceptance, the debate is shifting from whether to expand charter schools to how. **Read on.**

For more, check out the [Media Bullpen](#).



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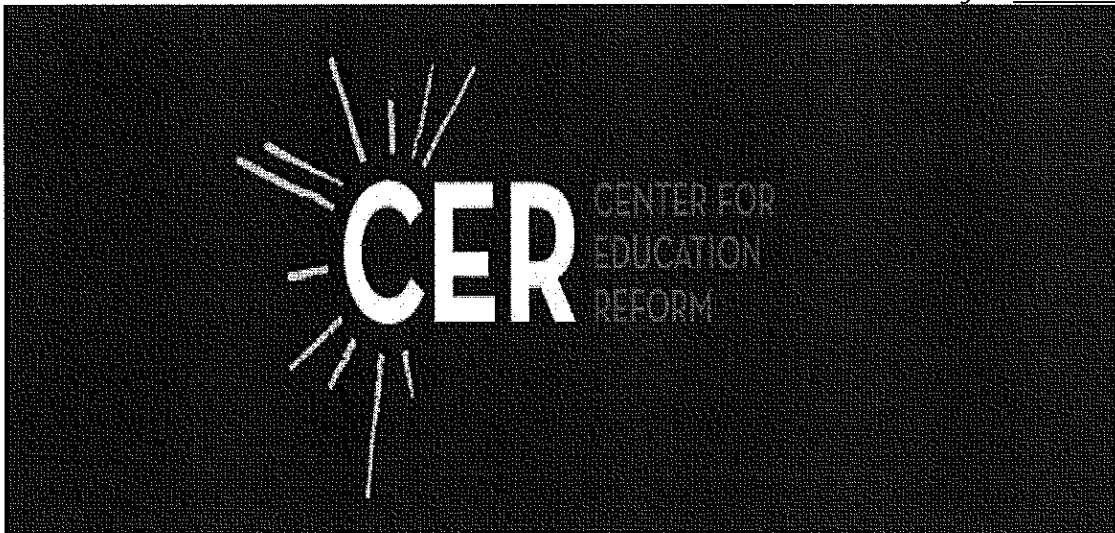
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"This is a corrected version of the Newswire, a previous version misstated the Governor's schedule."

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REINVENT IT. A lot of people still don't know that the #edreform movement is supported by a varied group of actors: From researchers to practitioners; and, thought leaders to parents. Since its inception, the cause of school choice, in particular, has been a mutual affinity among left, right, center and none of the above. That's why [David Osborne's latest contribution](#) to the story of what and why we must reinvent education is a critical read.

First off, Osborne makes a compelling argument about what reinvention of education actually is and why it is critical. Second, by using charters as a lens about how to recreate the governance and incentives of education, Osborne is one of the few in the influencer class that actually recognizes that some comparisons of averages is meaningless in the presence of varying factors guiding each charter law. As Osbourne writes, *"...[W]hen it comes to charter schools, 'average' has little meaning, because the 43 states (and the District of Columbia) with charters all have different laws."*



Each school is highly dependent on a startup tapestry, with unique operational and renewal processes that have become more complex over time, and have often been misapplied by human elements. (But that's another story and one we have covered in [Charting a New Course](#)).

END OF AVERAGE. All the talk about misunderstanding averages reminds us: If you haven't read *"The End of Average"* by Harvard Professor Todd Rose, run, don't walk, to your nearest bookstore or visit Amazon.com. You can also learn more about Rose's work by visiting [Center for Individual Opportunity](#).

STUCK IN AVERAGE? Both Osborne and Rose in their own way make the case against using snapshots, incompatible data and assumptions about average trends. The authors of two articles published today in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* would benefit a lot by reading the works from Osborne and Rose.

First, an op-ed authored by longtime ed reform opponent, Tom Toch, takes the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program (DC OSP) to task for failing to meet Toch's idea of success. Conveniently, Toch ignores parental support for the program, and while criticizing DC OSP, he disregards any of its successes as insignificant in size. But here are the undeniable facts: Nearly 90 percent of all DC OSP students graduate from high school and an estimated 90 percent of those graduates go on to attend college.

Meanwhile, Mark Binelli uses the *New York Times* to recycle a variety of falsehoods and misrepresentations to attack charter schools in Michigan. Like many critics of education reform, Binelli writes from a silo, disregarding the failure, corruption and existing struggles present in the traditional system – and in the case of his story, Detroit public schools. Instead, Binelli selectively picks and chooses which schools to highlight, while not sharing with readers that Detroit's public charter school students far outperform their peers in the city's traditional public schools. Furthermore, the data continues to pile up from MSTEP, U.S. News & World Report, Stanford University, and Temple University finding the highest performing high schools in Michigan are charter schools. Finally, like many of his peers in the anti-ed reform community – Binelli ignores the fundamental flaw in his argument – charters depend on parents making a choice, and overwhelmingly, more and more parents in Michigan are choosing charter schools over the traditional school because they're tired of the broken one-size-fits-all model.

25 YEARS: CELEBRATING THE FIRST CHARTER SCHOOL: The *Twin Cities Pioneer Press* celebrated the 25th birthday of the nation's first public charter school. City Academy opened as one school with only 100 students and

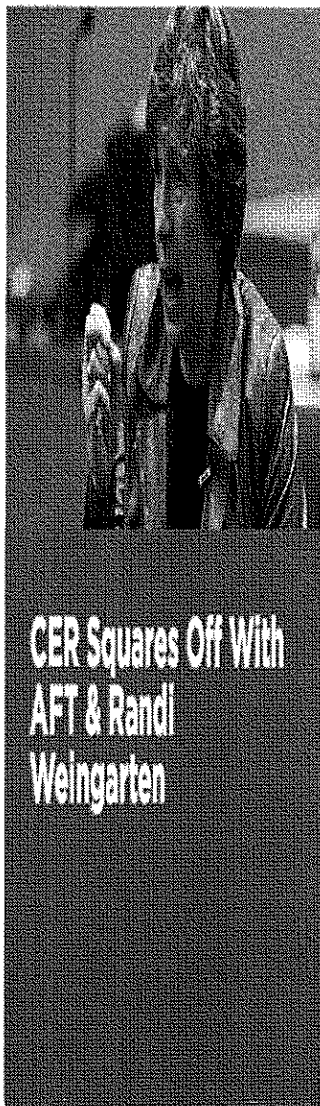
so began a movement spirited by innovation, customization and personalization. Today there are 7,000 charter schools serving more than 3 million students nationwide. At CER, we are proud to have been championing and fighting for the expansion and growth in the charter movement, and we celebrate the achievements of City Academy and all operators of education opportunity working to serve the needs of every child.

OPINION JOURNAL: Jeanne Allen, CER's founder and CEO, joined the *Wall Street Journal's* Mary Kissel on Thursday to discuss the ramifications of Illinois' education funding compromise. Signed into law last week by Governor Bruce Rauner, the new law creates the state's first private school choice program, increased funding for public charter schools, support for teacher pensions and funds traditional public schools. The compromise demonstrates that even in the darkest of blue states, education reform remains a bipartisan issue.

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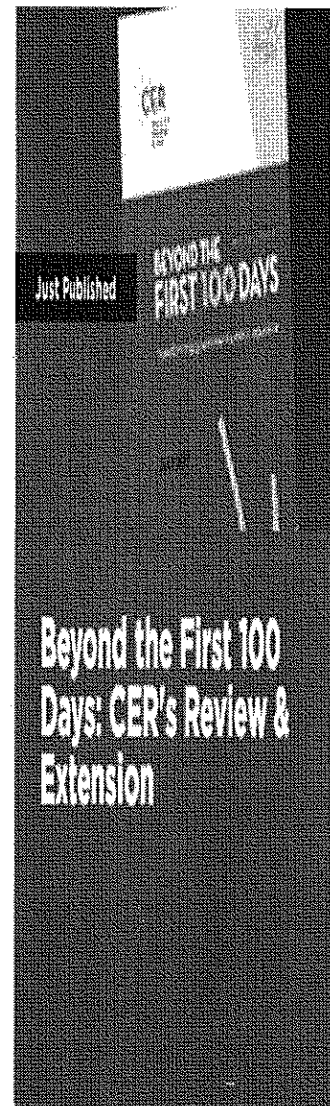


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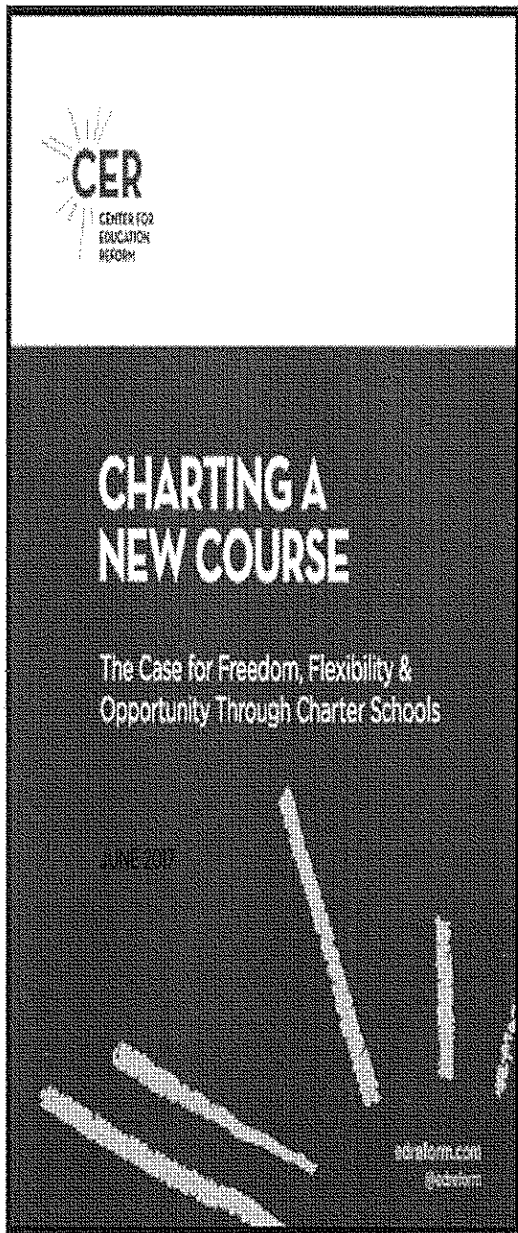


**CER Board Members
Speak Out Against
NAACP Actions**



**Beyond the First 100
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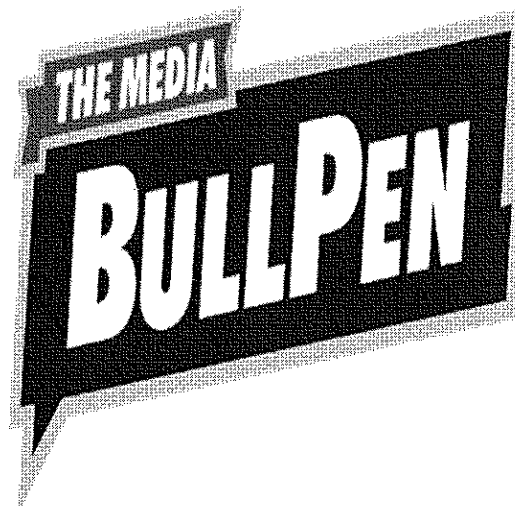
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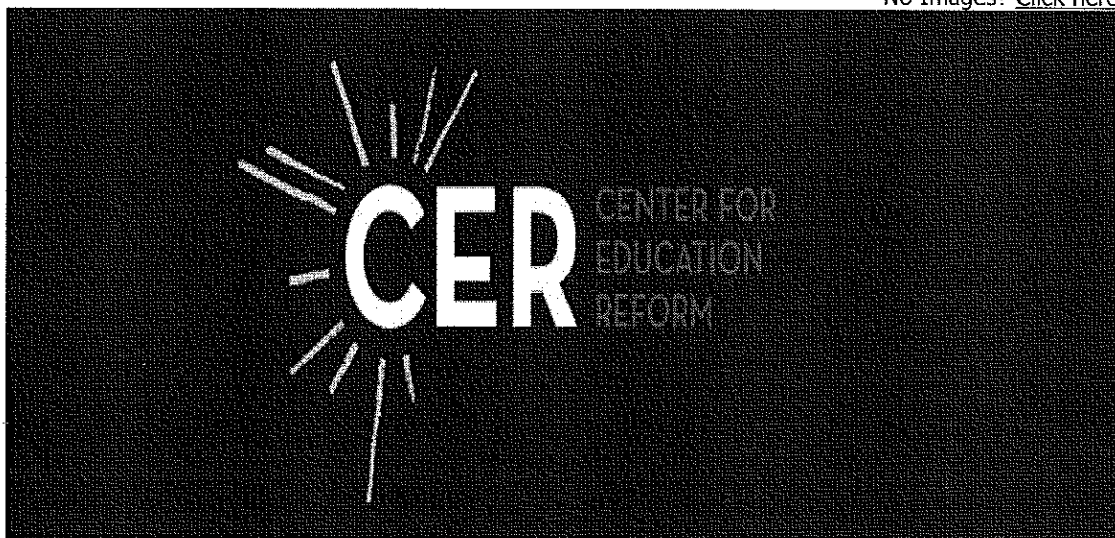
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A SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. While the establishment and others are crowing over charter schools and trying regulate, slow or limit their growth, you may want to pause a moment to read the *Wall Street Journal* piece, "Charter Schools Are Flourishing on Their Silver Anniversary." As we noted last week, City Academy, the nation's first charter school opened in St. Paul, Minn. on Sept. 8, 1992. "Since then (charters) have spread and proven their success [as today] some 7,000 of these schools serve about three million students around the U.S." Let's take this occasion to remember just

what the charter movement is all about: Freedom, innovation and opportunity for kids; not bureaucracy, the status quo, or a 19th century model of education. It's talked about in CER's book, released this summer, Charting a New Course – The Case for Freedom, Flexibility & Opportunity Through Charter Schools. Another great source is the numerous important research and analysis done by the Godfather of charter schools, Ted Kolderie, his work available at educationevolving.org.

UNION WATCH. Exercising lobbying muscle and throwing around political weight the NEA and AFT have long been a roadblock to change, a maddening thorn in the side of education reformers and pro-opportunity advocates, and a sharp-clawed force to be feared by anyone with political ambitions. But all across the country – in some very unlikely places – leaders are standing up to the unions and dramatically changing the dynamics of education reform. Read about it in Jeanne Allen's Washington Examiner op-ed "How teachers' unions became the paper tigers of education reform."

WITH THAT SAID ... Union activities are far from dead as witnessed by this headline: "Teachers At Chicago's Largest Charter School Network Renew Push To Unionize." The AFT affiliate can't stand the fact that a successful charter network has educated scores of at risk kids without their input, or their ongoing member losses. Fear mongering of teachers is ongoing, but we trust principle will prevail.



WILD WEST OUTPERFORMS. "If Arizona's public charter students were separated and measured as their own state, it would rank among a handful of

the top-performing states in the entire country on the Nation's Report Card," says the Arizona Charter Schools Association. For the third straight year Arizona's charter school students have beaten the averages in the state's AzMERIT scores in virtually every subject area and at every grade level. And, we'll also note, per the item above, that Arizona was not far behind Minnesota in launching charters – opening their first school in 1995. The state now has 556 schools that serve 185,000 students. No wonder both Arizona and Minnesota score high on the 17th Edition of CER's National Charter School Law Rankings & Scorecard.

MEANWHILE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ... Rumors that a federal effort to expand education opportunity has stalled are premature and exaggerated. A story today in Politico quoting insiders and those claiming to be in the know about the issues is, well, out-of-the-know. Interest in ensuring that more Americans have real access to education opportunity remains high on active issue on Capitol Hill and throughout Washington. How and who participates, and when it gets done actually takes a long time when dealing with a complex representative democracy (NB: readers may want to consult Tocqueville about this). Indeed thousands of supporters from around the country have been flooding Washington, meeting with their members of Congress within their own communities and working to educate the policy makers and policy leaders about why this issue matter. As they say in politics, "those who say don't know, and those who know, don't say."

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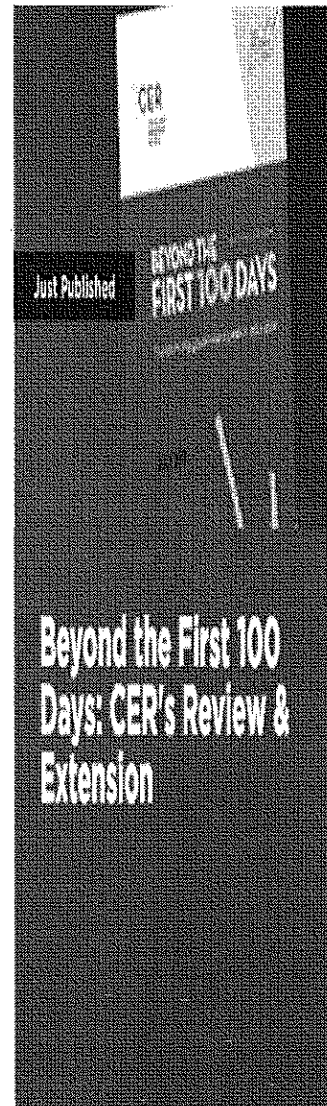


CER Squares Off With AFT & Randi Weingarten

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CER Board Members Speak Out Against NAACP Actions



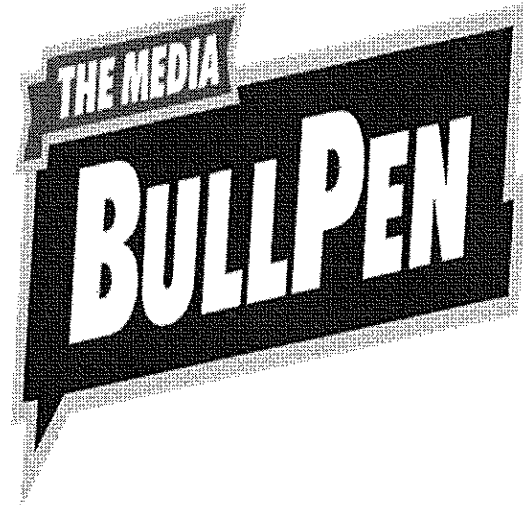
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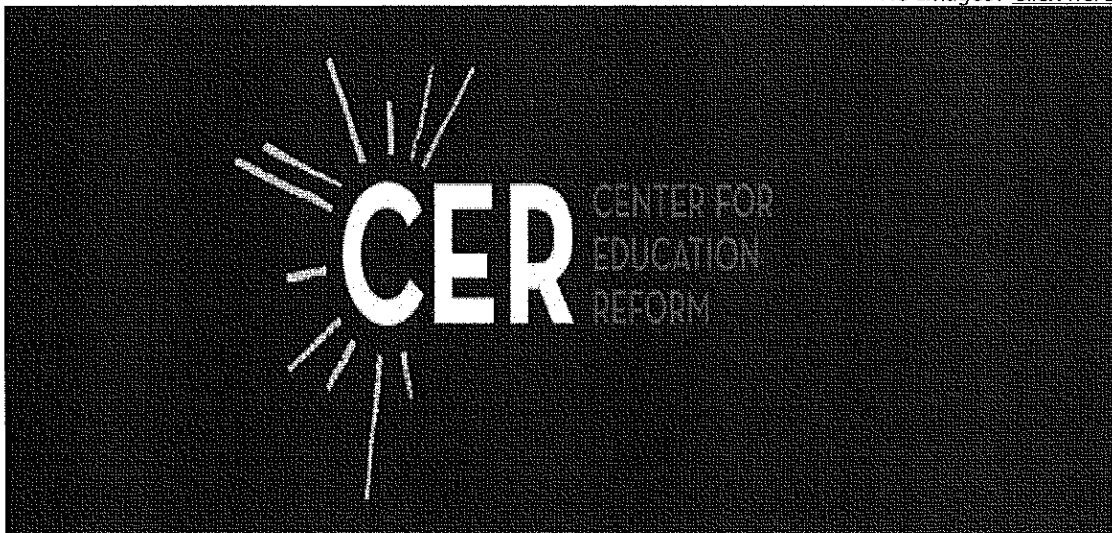
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A weekly report on education news & commentary from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity

BLUE STATE CELEBRATION. Leaders of education opportunity in Illinois gathered last night in Chicago to celebrate the first school choice program to ever grace a blue state. [One Chance Illinois](#), the local advocacy group whose work contributed to the historic accomplishment, will lead the effort to implement the tax credit scholarship program, which permits businesses to contribute to organizations whose sole job is to provide scholarships to poor and at-risk kids who would not otherwise have access to private schools. In a city like Chicago, there is no shortage of need, or demand. The school funding bill – which was negotiated by Gov. Rauner and Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady, and in the end had the support of the speaker – also equalized funding

for public schools and increased support for charter schools that have been underfunded. For more information go to [INCS](#). Our hearts are full knowing more kids will have opportunity in the Land of Lincoln.

NEWARK'S BACK IN CHARGE. After 20 years of state intervention, the Newark public schools are being "returned" to the district, the same one that sent it into disarray and was largely responsible for corruption, plummeting achievement and permitting unions to control the show. While David Chen writes in "[After More Than 20 Years, Newark to Regain Control of Its Schools](#)," that some things have improved in Newark's schools (especially since the growth of charters caused a response and the state pushed hard for results), the old district model isn't the solution. School systems that look like they did 150 years ago don't solve the problem of students lacking the personalization of education they need. Just read Ted Kolderie's [The Split Screen Strategy](#) if you want to understand that and what to do about it. While "local control" has a nice ring to it, beware of what it really means and who it helps – or hurts.



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DC DOES IT. Newark might take a page out of DC, where the move to mayoral control some 10 years ago, following a dramatic expansion of new schooling opportunities through charter schools and subsequently low income-based scholarships, kicked a system long in disarray into high gear. In fact, it's so noteworthy that even John Oliver (who usually spends most of his time ineffectually maligning great education reforms) sent [#DCPublicSchools](#) trending on Twitter with one comment on the Emmys. DC Schools immediately responded to the applause of its supporters and fans. If only Oliver really knew how much trending DC Schools really means in the landscape of education

reform and the model it is for other communities – especially its charter schools.

WE DON'T NEED NO... INNOVATION. The list of schools eligible for takeover from the North Carolina's Innovative School District (ISD) was released last week, and the effort is on to narrow the list of nearly 50 schools down to just a few that the state will take and partner with an innovative charter school partner in an effort to improve their academic performance. "Don't come to us," says Durham and Johnston counties, which have asked to be excluded from consideration. The schools are being considered for the ISD because their performance scores are among the lowest five percent in state, so it's not like this is a case of mistaken eligibility that they don't need help. It's more a matter of who gets control. As Lt. Gov. Dan Forest puts it, 'some turf wars' between the ISD and local school systems were probably inevitable. But, he said, taking a 'calculated risk' was necessary to help low-performing schools. "It's a brand new strategy in our state [and] a brand new opportunity to look at how do we really create a model that I think others can follow in how state and local communities partner together to improve outcomes for kids."

PARENT POWER IN MINNESOTA. In an interesting (although not surprising) look at the impact of parental choice on public school enrollment in Minnesota, The Star-Tribune reports that "Last year, about 132,000 Minnesota students enrolled in schools outside their home district, four times the number making that choice in 2000." Among the many "wow" data points discussed in the article is the fact that = 2In Minneapolis and St. Paul, the number of students leaving has almost doubled in the past decade, and total enrollment is plunging. Both cities now lose a third of their school-age population to other districts or charter schools." Joe Nathan, director of the Center for School Change, says that parents for do what's best for their children and = 2people of all races deserve options." Well said.

SPEAKING OF PARENT POWER: CER'S latest Index of Parent Power in the states is coming soon, with detailed analysis of what states offer it, how and what you can do to seize control of your own education. Stay tuned!

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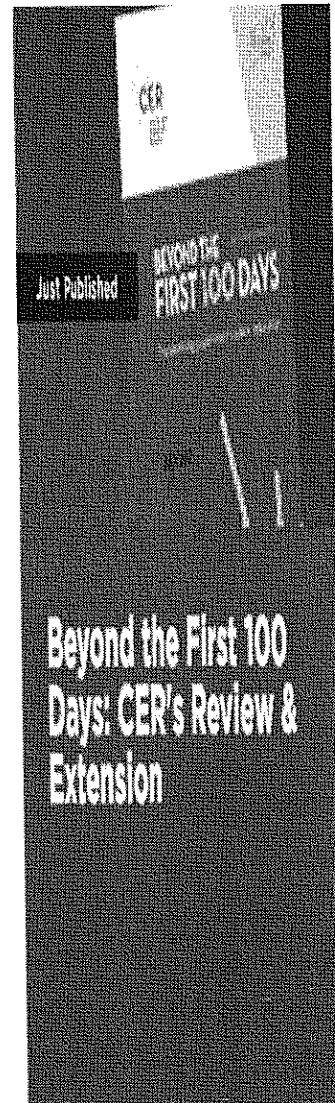
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**CER Squares Off With
AFT & Randi
Weingarten**

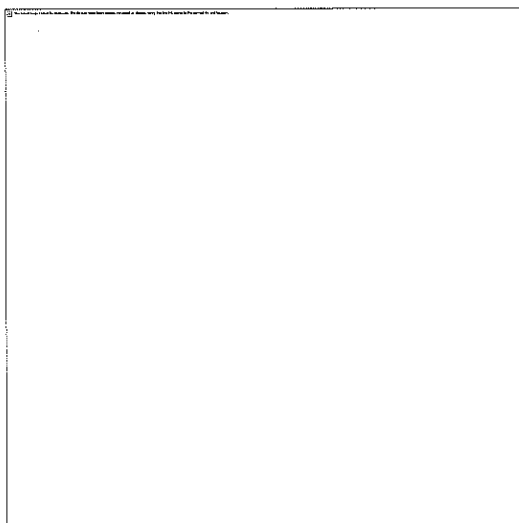


**CER Board Members
Speak Out Against
NAACP Actions**



**Beyond the First 100
Days: CER's Review &
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MORE NEWS & ANALYSIS



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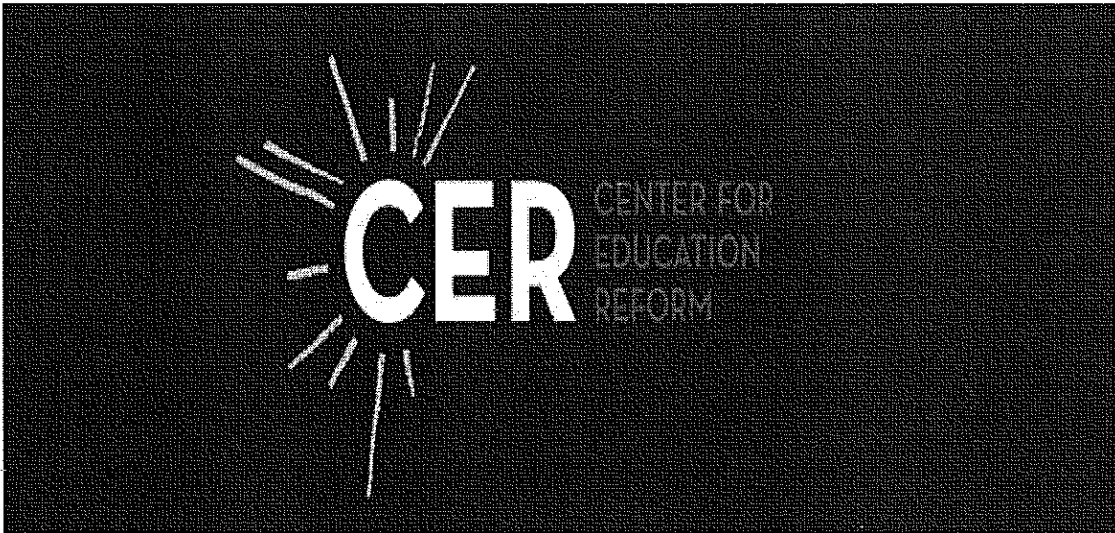
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THE NEW SAT. First there was the original, then there was the one they rescored years later to soften the blow, then they added writing, and subsequently many more essay questions (and took out that pesky "if this then that" analogy section). Now there's the wholly new test - results of which are out today - that the College Board has created to measure more than just test taking skills and aptitude but to gauge readiness for college. It's a noble goal, but still not entirely clear what it all means. However, the number of students

who take the test continues to increase, the “readiness” of students for college is only 46%. Why these scores should mean something is well known, but for a refresher read CER’s New Opportunity Agenda.

AFT HYPOCRISY. AFT president Randi Weingarten continues to astound audiences with incredible pronouncements of absurd and/or offensive nonsense. To re-cap: this past summer she characterized pioneers of education opportunity as segregationists and racists. Then, when called on to apologize for the insult, doubled down, pointing to actions from the Jim Crow era as proof of her offensive conclusion. Then in reaction to a study on absentee teachers which found 28 percent of teachers in traditional public schools miss more than ten days of work each year versus just 10 percent of charter school teachers, instead of calling it a crying shame and calling for revised public school policies she suggested charter schools needed to give their own teachers more time off. Finally, as Hurricane Irma battered Florida, she declared that the state’s charter schools were shirking their social responsibilities because their buildings weren’t required to be constructed as storm shelters. Clearly our friend is grasping at straws to come up with reasoned, reasonable – or even relevant – talking points on education issues. Either that, or she’s gone completely off the rails. Regardless, she should resign as head of the AFT.

LET MIKEY DO IT. “Former Michigan Gov. John Engler has a solution for Detroit’s ailing public schools – let Mayor Mike Duggan, or any successor, run them.” The Governor makes a good point. As Detroit schools continue to struggle to escape the morass of, well, themselves, Engler notes that when on a road to recovery, accountability is key: “The mayor is a political figure who is held accountable. You couldn’t get 50 people in Detroit to be able to successfully name who is on the Detroit public school board.” And while we’re on the subject of Detroit schools, Forbes recently carried an article rebutting a skewed analysis published in the New York Times about charter schools in

Motor City. The piece points major errors to some factual and other errors of omission. It's worth your time.

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY, STARRING? 6 Charter advocacy in Philadelphia got a big boost last week with the appointment of Sylvia Simms as the first executive director of Educational Opportunities for Families an organization that represents parents seeking more charter schools and educational choice. Simms, a longtime parent advocate and former member of the Philadelphia School Reform Commission will be leading "an aggressive new initiative to engage more parents in support of school reform, particularly in North Philadelphia." Simms hopes to create opportunities for parents and community members to talk and ensure that families, especially those in low-income neighborhoods, have high-quality schools for their children. Or, as she puts it, "We always talk about having high-quality schools close to where you live [but] there are no high-quality schools close to where I live, so what are we going to do about that?"



LET'S GET PERSONALIZED. According to the non-profit group EducationSuperHighway <https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/> America inches ever closer to its dream of high-speed internet access for all students with 94 percent of public school districts having connectivity that supports 100 kbps per student of Internet access. This is great news for anyone living in the 21st century, and a boon for advancing opportunities, and creating a wide

range of learning environments for personalized learning (through self-directed discovery, with their peers, and with the guidance of adults). It also puts a nice crack in the brittle 150-year-old education mold by favoring learning experiences that are adaptable to the needs, potential – and that support the highest possible outcomes – for each and every learner."

Did you see T. Willard Fair's piece in *USA Today* last week? [Here's another chance](#) to read this civil right= 2s icon's plea for choice for children in need across the land.

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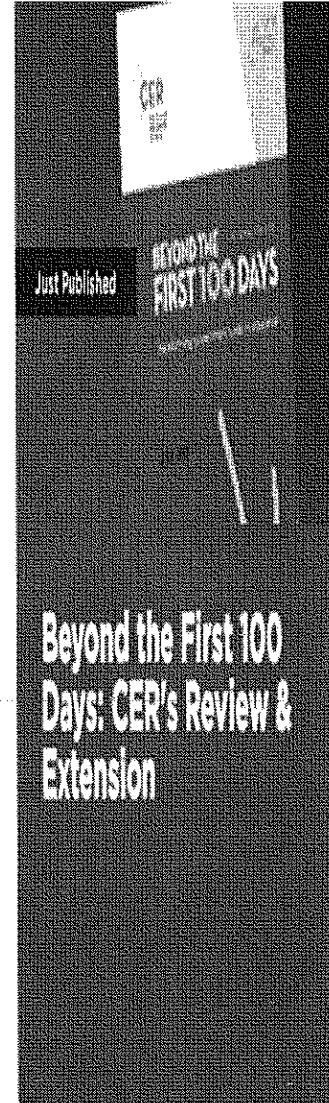
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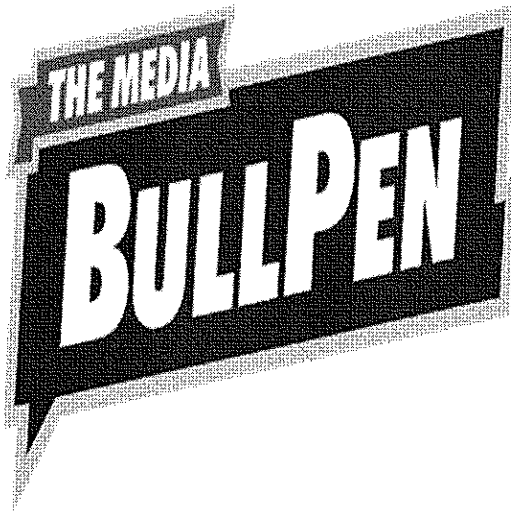


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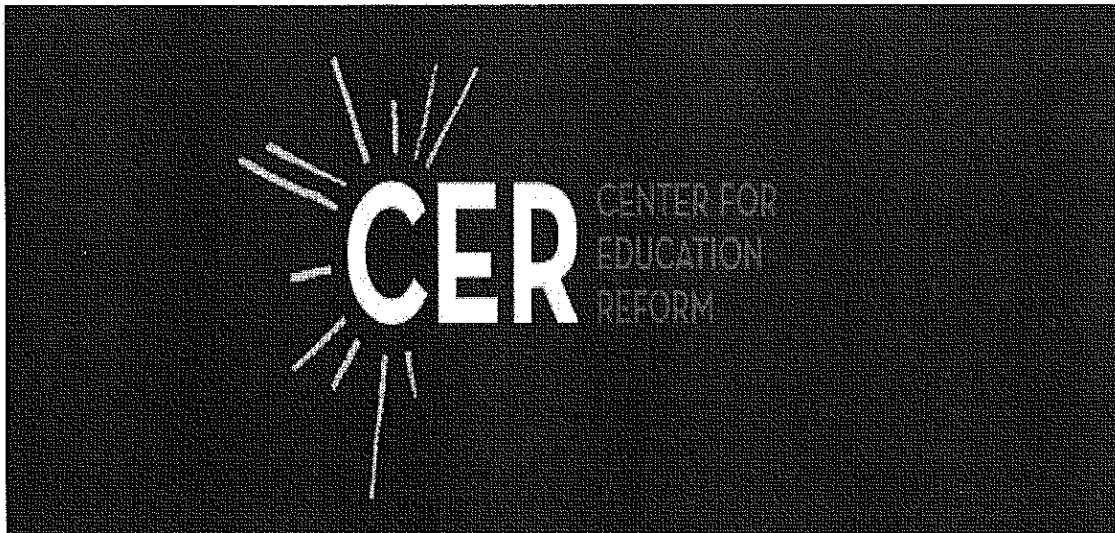
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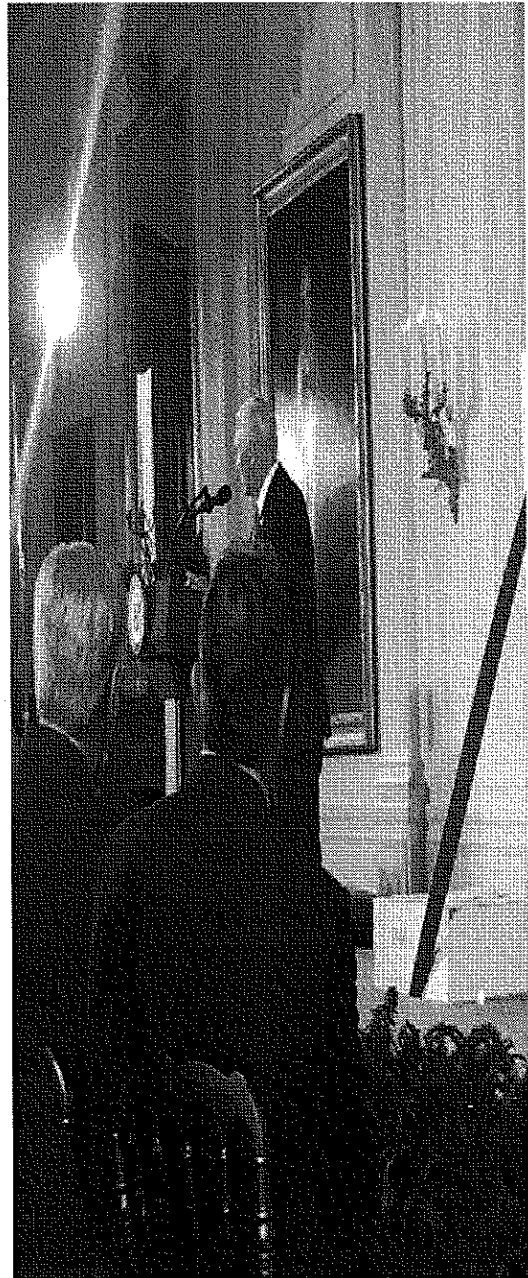
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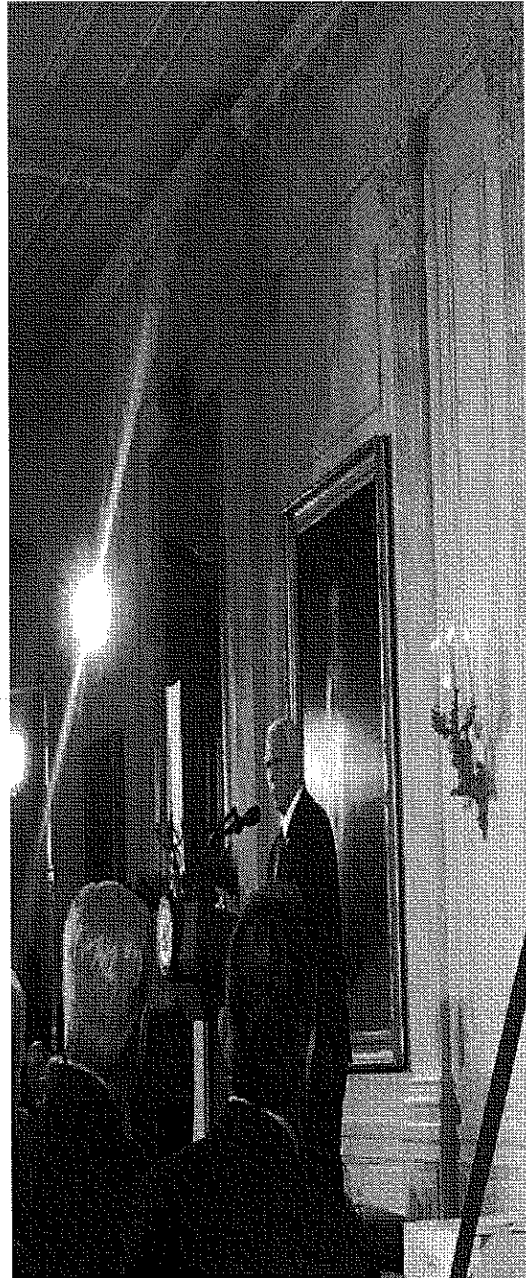
BLACK COLLEGES & CHARTER SCHOOLS. In opeds appearing around the country, Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund says HBCUs are intricately connected to the movement for better opportunities for students and opposition from groups like the NAACP and the AFT aren't helpful whatsoever. "Better parental choices are, frankly, a matter of life or death for many of our country's Historically Black Colleges & Universities. And the only way to impact that is to ensure that high-quality secondary school choices abound and that parents are aware of the options that exist to help them take their families out of traditional district schools that have long failed

their precious youth." More at the CER [Voices of Color, Voices for Opportunity](#) page and [here](#) .

UNCHAINED MELODY. Yesterday was "Cut the Red Tape" day in Washington. We participated at the White House kick-off hosted by VP Mike Pence. No matter where you stand politically, you've gotta give this Administration credit for its honest efforts to trim back the regulatory briar patch that entangles us all. The Council of Economic Advisors has issued a nifty report on the subject, "The Growth Potential of Deregulation". We voted "yes" on ending bureaucracy and made our feelings on the subject known last January in our own nifty little report, ["The First Hundred Days: The path to going bold on education= innovation & opportunity"](#). Among the recommendations - a commission to explore opportunities to send funds to states to use on innovative, flexible learning arrangements. We recommended the ED Feds also "review all federal regulations and the thousands of non-statutory guidelines that are essentially bureaucratic dictates accumulated over time, governing the distribution of state and local funds such that states might feel free to do as the law intended, but that federal policy was created to obscure." They have indeed undertaken that process. A report that promises to identify bureaucratic offenders with a recipe for change is expected by year's end.

A REAL STEM-WINDER. In another White House-driven initiative, last week the President sent an official memorandum to the Secretary of Education; subject: "Increasing Access to High-Quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education." The memo directs the Secretary to make STEM education "...including, in particular, computer science," a priority, and to take it into account when awarding grant funds. The initiative has a goal of devoting at least \$200 million in grant funds to the effort per year beginning in FY '18, which began October 1. Exactly when these funds kick-in and how to go about getting them is not yet known, and we'll let you know more as soon as we can find someone with some answers. In the meantime, all innovators, charters and innovative districts within the sound of our voice, should be working up grant proposals NOW!





DON'T MISS OUT. EDTECH NY IS ON THE HORIZON. New York Ed Tech Week, *The Global Education Innovation Festival*, is coming up December 18-20, and you may want to make plans to attend while early-bird tickets are still available. Join great people, important topics and informative speakers (including CER's own Jeanne Allen). It is really a must-attend year-end event.

Produced by StartED, Ed Tech Week facilitates some of the most impactful and memorable ed-tech experiences of the year, bringing together more than 200 companies, 200 investors, and 1,500 attendees which includes technology innovators, early-stage investors, EdTech entrepreneurs, media representatives, policymakers, corporations, educators, and students.

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Good morning Thomas Patton

March 26, 2018

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POLICY NEWS - STATE

Huntington Tri-State Airport Plans Renovations.

In a report on advances at the Huntington, West Virginia airport, the [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (3/25, Pace) reports that the Huntington Tri-State Airport is constructing a dual elevator and stairwell facility in a \$1.2 million project. Also, the airport is reconstructing and relocating taxiway Alpha East for an estimated cost of \$11 million. The airport is also constructing a business development area, called the Tri-State Aeroplex for repair and maintenance. The airport director says the FAA offers the airport support.

POLICY NEWS - FEDERAL

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Trump Signs \$1.3 Trillion Omnibus Spending Package.

POLITICO New York (3/23, Bade) reported that after hinting at a possible veto of the \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill, Trump “swallowed his objections because of its funding boost for national defense and the military.” The Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (3/23, Weiner) reported that the spending bill “includes more than \$100 million that will be spent in Central New York on items as varied as drones, radars and buses.”

Pentagon Receives Funding for 143 Additional Aircraft. The Washington Post (3/23, Davenport) reported that due to Friday’s passage of a \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill “signed by President Trump on Friday, defense spending will jump to \$700 billion, the largest increase in 15 years.” Aircraft in particular received one of the “biggest boosts in funding,” and the Pentagon will receive funding for “143 additional planes, bringing the total of aircraft procurement spending to \$44 billion, a 27 percent increase over the White House budget request.” Lockheed Martin in particular is a “big winner,” as an additional \$3 billion will be allocated to purchase 20 more F-35s, while the bill also added “another \$740 million for 10 more of Boeing’s F-18 Super Hornets, \$676 million for additional V-22 helicopters and \$510 million for three additional KC-46 tankers.” The Pentagon will also receive an “additional \$1 billion on two of Lockheed’s missile defense systems, bringing total appropriations for the Missile Defense Agency to \$11.5 billion.”

Full FAA Reauthorization Possible By August. Aviation Today (3/23, Bellamy) reported that the spending bill “includes an \$18 billion budget for the FAA, a \$1.6 billion spending increase above the agency’s fiscal year 2017 funding.” The budget also gives the FAA \$1.3 billion for NextGen investments, “an increase of \$239 million above funding dedicated to NextGen for fiscal year 2017.”

In analysis for Bloomberg Government (3/23), Shaun Courtney wrote that House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Bill Shuster and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chair John Thune met this week “to discuss a path toward reconciling their authorization bills (H.R. 2997), (S. 1405).” Courtney says this means “a full reauthorization of federal aviation programs could get a vote before the August recess – despite language in the omnibus spending deal that would extend the program through September.” Thune added that “we’re still looking at, internally, a timeline trying to have it done before August.”

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AVIATION

Boeing Delivers First 787-10, Completing Dreamliner Family.

Reuters (3/25, McLeod) reports that The Boeing Company delivered its first 787-10 Dreamliner to Singapore Airlines on Sunday, “rounding out a family of lightweight jets on which the US planemaker is betting its future.” Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choon Phong called the jet a “beautiful aircraft” and an “unparalleled product for regional operations.” The 787 and A330neo are “locked in a fierce battle for sales and profits in the market for jets with around 300 seats,” and Boeing may be poised to win a hotly contested order from American Airlines, beating competition from the A330neo, people familiar with the matter said on Friday.”

USA Today (3/25) hosts a gallery of the event in its coverage.

Boeing “Close” To Winning 787 Dreamliner Order From American Airlines.

Reuters (3/23, Hephner, Wise) reported that The Boeing Company is poised to win a pitched contest with Airbus, and will supply its 787 Dreamliner jets to American Airlines, beating out “European competition from the Airbus A330neo,

three people familiar with the matter said." The deal would also mark a "victory for General Electric, whose engines are expected to power the Boeing aircraft, beating proposals from rival Rolls-Royce, they said, asking not to be identified." In a statement, an American Airlines spokesman said that the carrier is "continuing to look at our wide-body options" and is "focused on making the right decision for American. No final decisions have been made at this time."

Bloomberg News (3/23, Katz, Johnsson, Schlangenstein) reported that talks with American "have ended, Airbus said Friday in response to questions from Bloomberg, saying it was unwilling to match the price Boeing offered."

Report: Rolls-Royce Trent 7000 Engine Issues May Extend To Airbus A330neo.

Bloomberg News (3/23, Katz) reported that glitches which have affected Rolls-Royce engines aboard Boeing 787 jets are now "also an issue for the competing A330neo model from Airbus." The Trent 7000 engine, the "only one available on the Airbus plane, shares durability problems afflicting the Trent 1000 from which it was developed, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing concerns that haven't been made public." The Trent 1000 TEN upgrade "is also affected, the manufacturer said." Although the A330neo has not yet entered service, the "Trent 7000 glitch is of concern to Airbus because it could deter buyers, one of the people said. = 2 Although parts of the engine are being redesigned, most of the fixes will not be available until around six months after the first aircraft = 2 is due for its first delivery this summer, according to one of the people." The A330neo is "distinguished from the original A330 chiefly by its upgraded engines," and is "already six months late due to earlier engine-design problems and a lack of testing capacity at Rolls-Royce."

Rolls-Royce Denies Bloomberg Report. In contrast, Reuters (3/23, Young) reported that "Rolls-Royce said its Trent 7000 engines which power the Airbus A330neo jet are not affected by the issues with the Trent 1000 engine, some of which have needed unscheduled maintenance as the turbine blades have worn out more quickly than expected."

Boeing Begins Assembly Of First 777-9 Fuselage.

FlightGlobal (3/23, Trimble) reported that The Boeing Company has begun assembly of the first 777X fuselage sections at "Boeing's Fuselage Assembly Centre in Everett, Washington," according to the company. Boeing tweeted a photo on March 23 that showed the first fuselage enter the "40-27 bay of the Everett factory." The fuselage "will be used for static testing on the ground, Boeing says." Inside the bay, the section "will be joined to the centre and aft fuselage sections, using a new process introduced two years ago on the 777-300ER and 777-200LR" programs.

Raytheon Wins \$523 Million Pentagon AMRAAM Contract.

Reuters (3/23) reported that the Pentagon announced Friday that it had awarded Raytheon Missile a \$523 million contract modification for the production of Advanced Medium Range Air to Air Missiles (AMRAAMs). The contract provides for the "production of the AMRAAM missile and other AMRAAM system items and involves foreign military sales to Japan, Kuwait, Poland, Indonesia, Qatar, Germany, Australia and the United Kingdom, the Pentagon said in a statement."

Boeing Ends Trade Dispute With Bombardier.

Reuters (3/23, Lampert) reported that The Boeing Company "said late on Thursday it will not appeal a U.S. trade commission ruling that allows Bombardier to sell its CSeries in the United States without hefty duties." Boeing had argued that the CSeries program had benefited from unfair subsidies, and was being sold in the US below cost. The case "heightened trade tensions between the planemaker, the United States and its allies Canada and the United Kingdom." In its response, Bombardier called Boeing's claim "meritless," and added, "We are happy that it has come to an end." It is not yet clear "how Boeing's decision will impact the planemaker's relationship with the Canadian government," which is preparing to hold a "competition for fighter jets worth between C\$15 billion (\$11.68 billion) and \$C19 billion."

Boeing Loses Denmark Fighter Acquisition Case.

Reuters (3/23, Jensen, Jacobsen) reported that The Boeing Company lost a lawsuit "against Denmark on Friday which related to the Danish government's decision to buy" the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II fighter jet instead of Boeing's F/A 18 Super Hornet. Boeing had taken the Danish government to court in order to seek access to "documents used in the government's decision to buy the Lockheed Martin jets." In its summary, Copenhagen's city court found "that the authorities' decisions on refusal of access to the documents are legal and valid." Boeing "said it was disappointed by the decision and would now review it and consider how to proceed."

Ukraine Agrees To Buy 55 Airbus Helicopters.

Reuters (3/23, Zinets) reported that Ukraine signed a "preliminary agreement on Friday with France to buy 55 helicopters from a division of Airbus to be used by the police, border guards and emergency services." The order is a mixture of H125, H145, and H225 helicopters. The deal was announced during French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian's visit to Kiev, which "underlined French support for Ukraine in its standoff with Russia but also urged the authorities to do more to tackle corruption at home." Ukraine hopes to receive the first helicopters this year, "the Ukrainian interior ministry said in a statement."

US Army Awards Airbus \$117 Million UH-72A Lakota Contract.

GovCon Wire (3/23, Crews) reported that the US Army has awarded Airbus Helicopter a contract modification to "provide an additional 16 UH-72A Lakota helicopters" to the service.

Lockheed's Skunk Works Reveals Existence Of Past X-44A UAV Concept.

FlightGlobal (3/26, Trimble) reports that Lockheed Martin Skunk Works secretly flew the X-44A "flying wing" UAV in 2001 as a technology demonstrator, and "decided to reveal the existence of the formerly secret project at the Los Angeles County air show on 24 March in Lancaster, California, which lies few miles north on Highway 14 from the unit's headquarters in Palmdale." Although Lockheed admitted the project's existence, the company is "not yet prepared to offer many details beyond the year of its first flight and its role as a demonstrator for a family of UAVs."

UAV Identifies Unmarked Gas Wells For PA Highway Project.

Drone Life (3/25, Reagan) reports that US Aerial Video Inc. used a UAV to locate several abandoned and unmarked gas wells in southwestern Pennsylvania as part of a recently completed six-month proof-of-concept project for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and National Energy Technology Laboratory.

SPACE

Soyuz Capsule Docks With ISS.

The AP (3/23, Press) reported that a Soyuz capsule carrying NASA astronauts Drew Feustel and Ricky Arnold and Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev docked with the ISS on Friday after taking off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan last Wednesday. The three joined "station residents Anton Shkaplerov of Roscosmos, Scott Tingle of NASA and Norishige Kanai of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency," and will spend around five months in orbit. The Daily Mail (UK) (3/23, Macdonald) hosted a NASA photograph of the Soyuz on approach to the space station.

Exos Aerospace Preparing For First Suborbital Launch.

SPACE (3/25, Foust) reports that Exos Aerospace is preparing for the "first flight of its reusable suborbital rocket in April." In a statement, the company wrote that it had completed a "hover test" of its Suborbital Autonomous Rocket with Guidance (SARGE) rocket on March 17, and had received a launch license from the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation. Exos plans to hold its first launch April 7 "from Spaceport America, flying to an altitude of at least 80 kilometers" and carrying payloads for undisclosed customers. According to Exos CEO John Quinn, one goal of the flight is to qualify for the NASA Flight Opportunities Program. Exos is based on "both technologies and people from Armadillo Aerospace, a company founded by video game developer John Carmack that competed for the Ansari X Prize for commercial human suborbital spaceflight in the early 2000s and later developed a series of suborbital vehicles, including an earlier version of the SARGE vehicle."

New NASA Model Helps Spot Landslides Before They Happen.

SPACE (3/23, Wall) reported that a new NASA computer model "identifies landslide hazards around the world every 30 minutes, potentially allowing scientists and first responders to get a jump on these natural disasters," according to a study published in the journal *Earth's Future* on Thursday. Study lead author and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center landslide expert Dalia Kirschbaum explained in a statement that "we really don't have a complete sense of where and when landslides may be happening to inform disaster response and mitigation," and that the new model helps "pinpoint the time, location and severity of potential landslide hazards in near real-time all over the globe." Kirschbaum wrote, "Nothing has been done like this before." The model was built using rainfall data provided by the "Global Precipitation Measurement satellite mission, which is run jointly by NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency" as well as a landslide susceptibility map.

May Leading "Last-Ditch" Effort To Keep Britain In EU Galileo Satellite Project.

The Financial Times (3/25, Parker, Hollinger, Barker, Subscription Publication) reports that British Prime Minister Theresa May is leading efforts to keep the European Union from locking Britain out from participation on the \$12.4 billion Galileo satellite project.

Magnus: ISS Needs To Remain A Research Platform.

Public Radio International (3/23, Schmidt) reported on the possible privatization of the ISS due to the fact that President Donald Trump has "hinted at the possibility of the US ending its part in the funding of the ISS by 2025." Former NASA astronaut and AIAA Executive Director Emeritus Sandra Magnus is quoted, and "says it is important to know that any advancements made by those companies will be built on top of a foundation of aerospace knowledge accumulated across more than 50 years of government investment, research and development." Magnus added that the government will "continue to need the ability to do research in space, both in low Earth orbit and beyond," so that the US can "continue to push that envelope so 50 years from now the next wave continues to have access to that expanding knowledge base that research and development provides."

MANUFACTURING

EIA Says Manufacturers' Electricity Use Has Declined.

The US Energy Information Agency (3/23) said that "overall electricity use in US manufacturing has declined in recent years, based on data from the US Census Bureau." The release stated that "many manufacturing establishments have the option of generating their own electricity in addition to pulling directly from the electric grid to run their processes," noting that "most operators get their electricity from grid purchases." According to the EIA, "From 2006 through 2016, the manufacturing sector purchased 87% to 89% of their electricity from the grid and generated the remaining 11% to 13% onsite."

STEM EDUCATION

North Carolina Nonprofit Aims To Prepare New Generation Of Pilots.

= AThe AP (3/24, Childress) reported on the Airlina Young Aviators Program (AYA), a nonprofit and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program for high school students in Durham. The program "is open to all students," but is focused on helping "prepare the next generation of black aviators for the opportunities that will present themselves over the next two decades as thousands of commercial pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65. 0 The story mentions that flying lessons in this day and age "cost about \$180 an hour, compared to the \$14 an hour" students used to pay back in the '60s. The AP mentions that FAA "requires 40 hours of flight time in addition to passing the FAA Private Pilot written exam and the Private Pilot Oral and Practical (Flying) Exam to earn a pilot's license."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Laramie Regional Airport Seeks Funds To Expand Terminal.**
- **NASA To Receive \$20.7 Billion As Part Of Proposed Omnibus Bill.**
- **Norway Announces Plans To Purchase Electric Planes.**

- Planetary Science “Doing Incredibly Well” Under NASA’s 2019 Budget.
- Apprenticeship Programs “Alive And Well” In New York.

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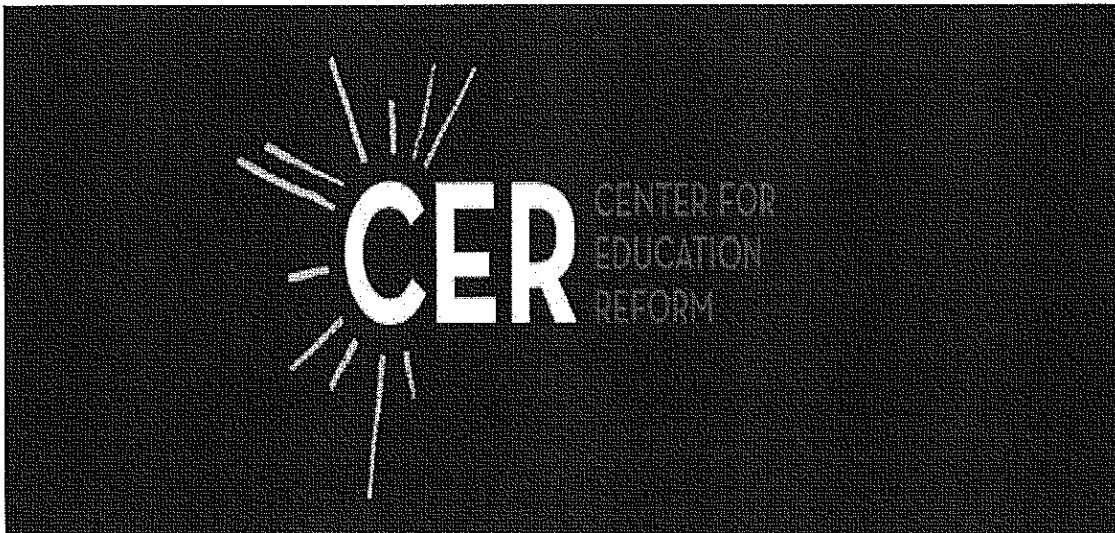
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= A The Aerospace States Association is an association of state lt. governors and state government officials fostering state aerospace growth and STEM workforce development. For more information, please see www.aerostates.org or contact GarelickBell@aerostates.org.

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A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity.

INNOVATION GOES TO CAPITOL HILL. Education Innovation. We've been talking about it since early 2016 and its necessity as part of the larger equation — Innovation PLUS Opportunity = Results. For several months CER has introduced education innovation to Washington in individual meetings and provided guidance to federal officials on who they might want to listen to if they are to ensure competency-based education replaces seat time in the quest for education mastery.



Enter Kelly Young of EducationReimagined, and Julia Freeland Fisher of the Clayton Christensen Institute who led a riveting and necessary conversation on how Congress can help drive opportunity and innovation in teaching and learning. As Ms. Fisher offered a packed room of intrigued Hill staffers during the meeting, we must consider how ? Cwe have the tools to start to re-choreograph the classroom in the 21st century." The current system is not designed to produce 21st century results and doesn't promote a "learner-centered education,= 2 said Ms. Young. Her group's goal? To design a progressive system that ensures a learner-centered environment. There's proof that it works. Jemar Lee, a student at IowaBIG was on hand to share his

experience; at a high school where students help solve community issues through passion projects, he found success after having been discouraged and disengaged in a traditional model school. He explained how a policy that allows learner-centered environments to thrive will be one that produces personalized models specific to individual communities and economies. The message to Congress? Legislating and spending with rules and regulations that value seat time over accomplishment deter progress and innovation.

The reason personalized learning can and should be happening?

"We have tools to allow us to re-choreograph the classroom, we no longer have to limit student outcomes to whatever teachers have time to accomplish with their students in a classroom. Online learning isn't necessarily a silver bullet. How is technology getting integrated into classrooms, so teachers have more time for small group and individual instruction; how is technology unlocking various pathways so that students can learn fully online outside of school and inside school? And policy has a big role to play there." (Fisher)

"What learner-centered education is all about is how do we empower young people? It assumes all learners are capable, curious and wondrous, that learning is actually a natural phenomenon and kids don't have to be forced to do it. If kids are in a place where they're not learning... it's not because they don't want to. It might be that they're suffering from trauma, that they might have been so brutalized by the current climate of a compliance-based system, that all curiosity has left them temporarily, but it can all be restored.

"Learners are unique....so how do we actually treat individuals like individuals, not just based on their academics but based on their interests, the language they speak, their brain wiring. It sounds complex, but actually we can design these systems that accommodate everybody. Once we realize that learning is natural...we would design a competency-based system, a system that isn't time-based. It's personalized, relevant, and contextualized – that the content of learning is no longer standardized." (Young)

Interested in joining the Innovation Roadshow? [Write to us here](#) and tell us how we can work together!

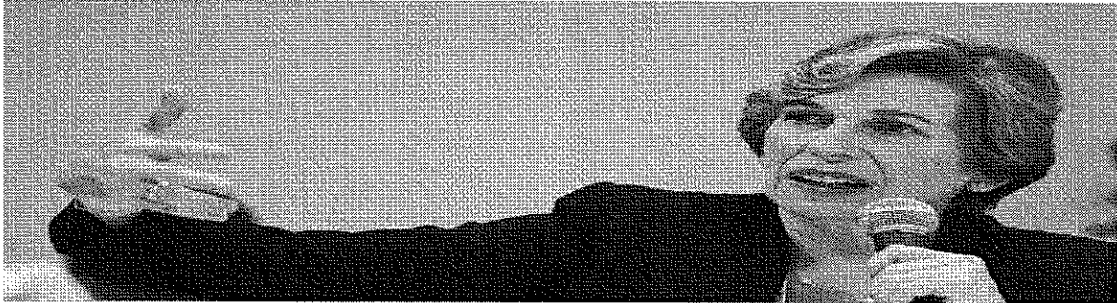
HIGH MARKS FOR ONLINE HIGHER ED. A new study from Arizona State University reports that online courses may be just what it takes to help retain students and keep them on the path to graduation. [According to EducationDive](#), "Retention and completion rates would seem to be higher among students in online learning courses because there are fewer metrics that could contribute to low performance in coursework." But the news piece cautions that making online courses engaging and meaningful require a close look at design. Although the study is small, the results are promising.

TRANSFORMING ED IN RURAL AMERICA. Music to our ears. The drum beat continues new approaches to help address limitations in human capital and overcome distance barriers to allow rural communities to have access to exceptional education. [According Digital Learning Strategies for Rural America](#), "... online and blended learning has been helping students and schools in many ways." The report includes case studies of 15 states and programs to demonstrate policies, districts and schools that are using digital learning to meet rural education needs.

DID YOU SEE IT? ['How Ed Tech Can Save Rural America'](#) was the focus of a robust discussion at the ASU+GSV annual summit earlier this month.

THE REVOLUTION IS COMING. According to the latest Reality Check with Jeanne Allen an education revolution is already here and it's going global.= Find out what it took for Laura Sandefur and her husband Jeff to abandon traditional schools, take the plunge and turn learning upside down. In 2009, they founded Acton Academy with just 15 students, and today with more than 80 campuses around the world, Acton Academy is considered one of the most innovative K-12 school models. Laura's take on traditional education? "It's not

only broken, it's irrelevant!" Hear
more <https://www.edreform.com/realitycheck/>



ICYMI. The teacher strike continues in Arizona. Somehow Gov. Doug Ducey's plan "20x2020" calling for 20% teacher pay raises over two years and restoring recession-era cuts to K-12 funding isn't good enough. Fanning the flames of unrest, and calling for another day of strikes, AFT president Randi Weingarten joined the Arizona rally Monday. Schools statewide remain closed Tuesday including the two largest districts in the state, Mesa Public Schools and the Tucson Unified School District.

Read more about the national situation [here](#), and [here](#).

Founded in 1993, [the Center for Education Reform](#) aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans — particularly our youth ? 4 ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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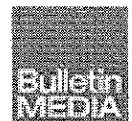
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May 4, 2018

POLICY NEWS - FEDERAL

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NTSB Investigators Find Signs Of Metal Fatigue On Southwest Flight 1380 Engine.

Reuters (5/3, Wise, Shepardson) reports that federal investigators announced Thursday that the engine blade which broke apart aboard Southwest Airlines Flight 1380 last month showed signs consistent with metal fatigue. The identification of metal fatigue "could necessitate more frequent and more comprehensive inspections of these parts." The NTSB "found six crack lines on the fan blade that separated and tore through the engine's cowling," and is working to determine how long fan blades take to show such signs, as well as "whether current inspection measures can effectively detect cracks." In a statement, Southwest pledged to "continue to cooperate fully with the National Transportation Safety Board's ongoing

investigation."

USA Today (5/3, Jansen) reports that two pieces of a broken fan blade were found inside the aircraft's engine, but "other pieces dislodged the cowl that fatally damaged the wing and fuselage of the Boeing 737-700, investigators said Thursday." No cracks were identified on the remaining blades. The "majority of the front engine cowl," including the "entire outer barrel, the aft bulkhead and the inner barrel forward of the containment ring," was damaged and "knocked off the Southwest engine." The leading edge of the left wing, left fuselage, and left horizontal stabilizer in

the tail exhibited "significant impact damage," according to the investigators. A large gouge "consistent with a piece of the cowl was adjacent to row 14, where the window was missing and the passenger partially exited the plane."

ABC News (5/3, Dooley) reports that "a fragment of the engine cowling, not a fan blade," struck the window of Southwest Flight 1380.

US-China Trade Relationship Impacts "Key House Race" In Washington State.

The New York Times (5/3, Kitroeff, Subscription Publication) reports that the potential impact of Trump administration tariffs on imported steel and aluminum on the US-Chinese trade relationship and on The Boeing Company are factoring into a Congressional race in Washington state's Eighth Congressional District. Boeing is likely "the American company with the most riding on a healthy relationship with Beijing" because China is projected to purchase "more than 7,000 planes worth almost \$1 trillion in the next 20 years, more than Boeing's current backlog for the entire world." Although most commercial aircraft in China currently are made by Boeing, "if the trade pressures escalate, China could choose to award more work to Europe's Airbus."

US Air Force Identifies Three Potential B-21 Bases.

ExecutiveGov (5/3, Crews) reports that the US Air Force has identified Dyess Air Force Base in Texas, Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, and Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri as "reasonable alternative" hosts for Northrop Grumman's future B-21 Raider bomber. The Air Force plans to issue a "Raider basing decision after it addresses regulatory and planning compliance requirements mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act."

AVIATION

American Announces \$1.4 Billion Order Of Bombardier, Embraer Regional Jets.

Bloomberg News (5/3, Schlangensteen, Moura) reports that American Airlines "split" a \$1.4 billion order of regional jets between Bombardier and Embraer in a "push to update its short-range fleet." The carrier will purchase "15 Bombardier CRJ900 planes and 15 Embraer E175 jets, according to a regulatory filing Thursday." American also has options to buy 15 more of each aircraft. The move boosts the airline's shift toward larger "regional jets with room for two passenger classes, which better match the offerings of the airline's larger single-aisle planes." American has reduced the amount of aircraft in its fleet smaller than the 76-seat jets. The CRJ900s will be operated by PSA Airlines, while Envoy Air will operate the E175s. American will retire a "still undetermined number of 50-seat CRJ200 aircraft at PSA to help make room for the new planes." According to CIBC World Markets analyst Kevin Chiang, the order is an "incremental positive as Bombardier looks to rebuild its backlog for its legacy aircraft, and specifically for the CRJ family." The E175 deal is valued at around \$705 million at list prices, while the CRJ900 order is valued at \$719 million. Reuters (5/3) reports that American plans to take delivery of the aircraft between March and November 2019.

Bombardier Commits To Commercial Aerospace.

Reuters (5/3, Lampert) reports that Bombardier affirmed support for its commercial aerospace program Thursday after announcing the sale of the Downsview assembly site for its Q400 turboprop passenger plane in northern

Toronto for \$635 million. The site is one of four assembly facilities for the aircraft. Bombardier CEO Alain Bellemare told analysts, "This (the Q400) is a product line we'll keep pushing," and explained that the sale would allow the company to "monetize an underutilized asset and optimize our business aircraft operations." D Bombardier has a backlog of 50 Q400 aircraft, which "has about 25 percent of the global market in small commercial planes, second to European rival ATR." Although the company's first quarter results showed increasing revenue at three out of four Bombardier units, the company's commercial aircraft segment posted a 12 percent drop in revenue, and the company "used \$721 million of its available cash in the quarter – more than last year."

Bloomberg News (5/3, Tomesco) reports that the deal will help Bombardier increase free cash flow, as the company "is saddled with about \$9 billion of debt from pricey development programs for the C Series airliner and the Global 7000 business jet." Production for the Q400 jet will continue at the Downsview site "for as many as three years after the land sale closes, with options for two one-year extensions." Production then will move to a site at Toronto Pearson International Airport in around three years. Bombardier "plans to open a final assembly plant for its Global business jets at Pearson and hasn't decided where to build the Q400 turboprop." Bombardier booked 31 orders for private jets in the first quarter, and BMO Capital Markets analyst Fadi Chamoun sees "encouraging signs of pick-up in demand" in business aviation.

Planned Factory Will Allow For Increased Global 7000 Production If Necessary. Bloomberg News (5/3, Tomesco) separately reports that a planned factory at Pearson "will have the capacity to build as many as 100 business aircraft annually, Chief Executive Officer Alain Bellemare told shareholders Thursday." This would allow Bombardier the option of increasing output for the Global 7000 if necessary based on demand. The Global 7000 will compete with General Dynamics' Gulfstream G650, "which has reigned unopposed since pioneering the ultra-long-range category five years ago." Bombardier plans to deliver a "handful of Global 7000 jets this year and probably ship about 20 of the planes next year, David Coleal, the president of business aircraft, told reporters in Montreal after the company's annual meeting."

Rolls-Royce "Working Quickly" To Repair Trent 1000 Engines.

Reuters (5/3, Young) reports that Rolls-Royce is working quickly to "repair problems with some of its Trent 1000 engines that have left planes grounded, it said on Thursday, adding it remained confident the cost would not cause it to miss financial forecasts." The company aims to have the problems fully resolved by 2022, but Rolls-Royce CEO Warren East added, "Based on where we are at the moment, we would expect to remove the aircraft on the ground situation much, much faster than 2022." The manufacturer was "questioned at its annual shareholder meeting about problems with the Trent 1000 package C," which is used to power some Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets. The issues have been a "new headache for a company in turnaround mode since 2015." The company reassured investors Thursday that it is on track to meet both free cash flow and profit forecasts. The engines' fan blades are not "lasting as long as expected, requiring extra inspections" and, in some cases, grounding of aircraft. There are 380 "package C" engines currently in service, and estimates "put the number of grounded planes at any one time at about 30." Rolls-Royce Chairman Ian Davis told investors that fixing the issues is "[t]he absolute priority for the board, the absolute priority for the company."

Boeing's Insitu Debuts ScanEagle3 UAV.

FlightGlobal (5/3, Reim) reports that Boeing subsidiary Insitu debuted its ScanEagle3 UAV at the "annual AUVSI gathering." Boeing is promoting the UAV as a "primarily commercial product that is free of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations that govern its other aircraft, such as the ScanEagle2 and Integrator." According to Insitu Commercial Vice President Mark Bauman, this "enables us as, a commercial business, to access the global market more easily." Insitu believes that the ScanEagle3 could be popular with foreign military, "but is focused first on marketing the drone commercially, Bauman adds." The UAV can carry up to 20lb, more than twice that of the ScanEagle, "and up to three payloads simultaneously, which Insitu says enables it to collect and analyse more data in a single flight."

FBI Official: Gang Used Swarming UAVs To Attack Agents.

The Washington Times (5/3, Ernst) reports that "criminal gangs are getting creative with drone technology to combat law enforcement's efforts to rein them in." Attendees at this year's AUVSI Xponential UAV technology conference "were given new examples as to how far criminal gangs will go to thwart authorities," and "in addition to counter surveillance measures against U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents, a 'law enforcement-sensitive' incident last winter demonstrated offensive measures employed by criminals." According to FBI Technology Law Unit head Joe Mazel, agents were buzzed by small UAVs making repeated "high-speed low passes at the agents in the observation post to flush them."

Strata Manufacturing Plans To Continue Focus On Commercial Market.

CNBC (5/3) hosts a video of Strata Manufacturing CEO Ismail Ali Abdulla, who details the company's support of The Boeing Company, Airbus, and Leonardo. Abdulla outlined the company's plans to focus exclusively on commercial components and continue a focus on maintaining gender diversity in its workforce.

AeroVironment Partners With FlightWave To Add UAV VTOL Capability.

FlightGlobal (5/3, Reim) reports that AeroVironment has signed an agreement with Flightwave to "add vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capabilities to its future unmanned aircraft." Most of AeroVironment's current aircraft are "fixed-wing drones that are hand- or catapult-launched, and are used for surveillance."

BAE Systems To Invest In Prismatic's Solar-Powered HALE UAV.

FlightGlobal (5/3, Gubisch) reports that BAE Systems announced that it will invest in Prismatic's "development of a solar-powered high-altitude, long-endurance (HALE) unmanned air vehicle." According to BAE Systems Strategy Director for Air Systems Michael Christie, BAE is "keen to invest in the programme as part of our long-term strategy to explore new technologies and solutions in air and space."

Textron Debuts X5-55 VTOL UAV.

FlightGlobal (5/3, Reim) reports Textron Systems unveiled its "X5-55 vertical take-off and landing engineering testbed at the AUVSI Xponential show in Denver, Colorado." The UAV was developed to meet demands "from military customers for an unmanned air vehicle that is able to nimbly take off and land vertically from tight spots, while retaining the ability to fly efficiently over long distances." According to Textron Technical Director of Advanced Product Initiatives Sean Baity, "there is more focus on manoeuvrability" as well as "independent operation in complex

terrain." The UAV uses "four independently moving electric-powered rotors for vertical and horizontal flight," and according to Baity, its vector thrust technology will allow the aircraft to operate more quickly and nimbly.

US Issues Formal Complaint To China Over "High-Grade Lasers= 2 Aimed At US Military Aircraft.

The Washington Post (5/3, Sonne) reports that the US has issued a formal complaint to China ? Calleging that the Chinese military injured two U.S. airmen by directing high-grade lasers at American aircraft in Djibouti." Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said the incidents are "a serious matter," and "we're taking it very seriously." In a briefing, White indicated that there have been several incidents, and that their frequency has increased in recent weeks. The US operates a UAV base in Djibouti, which also hosts a Chinese military base and others "from an array of countries including France, Italy and Japan."

United Hires Former Obama Press Secretary As Communications Officer.

Bloomberg News (5/3, Bachman) reports that United Continental has hired Josh Earnest, President Barack Obama's former White House spokesman, "as its new chief communications officer, tasked with helping the airline work through the fallout from a series of public relations blunders." According to a statement issued Thursday by United CEO Oscar Munoz, Earnest will "play a crucial role on our leadership team as we position our brand and this company for success."

The Wall Street Journal (5/3, Cameron, Subscription Publication) reports that United is in the process of implementing an ambitious expansion plan, and also is hoping to shed its reputation for poor customer service as well as the lingering impact of several high-profile incidents aboard its aircraft.

FROM ASA



ASA Opens 2018 Distinguished Aerospace Service Award Nominations

The Aerospace States Association has announced it is now accepting nominations for the association's 2018 Thomas R. Hobson Distinguished Aerospace Service Award.

The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exemplary characteristics which bring government, industry and education together to strengthen the aerospace industry for the benefit of a state, territory or region of the United States of America. The award seeks nominees who have contributed to, and recognize, the U. S. states' and territories' fundamental and important economic role in strengthening America's aerospace prowess.

Nominations of the award are open until May 9, 2018. The award will be presented at the ASA annual meeting; hosted this year by the great State of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee, July 25-27, 2018. For more award information contact Robert Mansfield, ASA Director, National Programs at: mansfield@aerostates.org.

Connect with ASA:



SPACE

China Successfully Launches Long March Rocket.

Space News (5/3, Jones, Subscription Publication) reports that China successfully launched a Long March 3B rocket Thursday carrying the Apstar-6C communications satellite "from Launch Complex 2 at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China." The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) "announced the success of the launch just over an hour after liftoff." The launch was China's 13th of the year, and the fifth from Xichang, "which is expected to see around 17 launches in 2018, mostly of Beidou navigation and positioning satellites." Apstar-6C joins a constellation of four satellites belonging to APT Satellite, which provides "transponder services for video distribution, broadband internet access, and cellular backhaul."

InSight Launch Will Be NASA's "First Interplanetary Launch" From West Coast.

The Washington Post (5/3, Kaplan) reports that NASA's InSight spacecraft is "slated to launch early Saturday morning, carrying instruments to take the temperature and pulse of the Red Planet's deep interior." The probe will launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California in "NASA's first interplanetary launch from the West Coast." The mission aims to help scientists understand how the interior of Mars was formed. According to InSight Deputy Principal Investigator Suzanne Smrekar, Earth's "initial crust is essentially gone, it's all been recycled," meaning that Mars will give scientists an "opportunity to see the materials, the structure, the chemical reactions that are close to what we see in the interior of Earth, but it's preserved from the first 10 million years [of the solar system]. It gives us a chance to go back in time."

The Chicago Tribune (5/3, Khan) reports that UCLA planetary physicist and geophysicist Gerald Schubert, who is not associated with the mission explained that NASA has "never had a mission that was devoted to looking inside Mars."

AFP (5/3) reports that the InSight lander will include a "seismometer, called the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure, made by the French space agency" that InSight Principal Investigator Bruce Banerdt has called "the heart of the mission." InSight will also include the Heat Flow and Physical Properties Package "made by the German space agency with the participation of the Polish space agency." The probe will dig "15 times deeper than any previous Mars mission, to a depth of three to five metres." According to NASA, the US spent \$813.8 million on the spacecraft and launch vehicle, while the French and German instruments cost \$180 million.

USA Today (5/3) includes a video report in its coverage.

Fog At Vandenberg Not Expected To Delay Liftoff. Spaceflight Now (5/3, Clark) reports that launch officials "do not expect a layer of fog expected during Saturday's two-hour launch window to prevent liftoff" of the spacecraft. The official weather outlook from the US Air Force's 30th Space Wing "calls for an 80 percent chance of violating range safety constraints related to visibility during the launch," but according to 30th Space Wing Commander Col.

Michael Hough, the launch team can meet the visibility requirement through other means. Fog is "common at Vandenberg and typically does not prevent launches."

Upgraded Falcon 9 Prepares For Test-Firing At KSC.

Spaceflight Now (5/3, Clark) reports that the first upgraded SpaceX "Block 5" Falcon 9 rocket is preparing for a "crucial engine test tomorrow 20 at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. The 3.5-second test firing of the rocket's engines is "due to take place during an eight hour window that opens at noon EDT." The outlet includes a "time-lapse video" of the Falcon 9 "rolling out to launch pad 39A on Thursday."

Orbital ATK Beats First-Quarter Estimates.

Reuters (5/3) reports Orbital ATK announced its first-quarter financial results, posting revenue of \$1.31 billion, beating analyst estimates of \$1.14 billion. While free cash flow was negatively impacted in the quarter, Orbital ATK received new orders worth approximately \$1.95 billion, and cited an overall backlog of around \$16.6 billion as of April 1.

Facebook "Secretly Building" Internet Satellite.

CNET News (5/3, Mack) reports that a "partially redacted FCC application obtained by IEEE Spectrum outlines a plan for an experimental satellite" from a "mysterious company" called PointView Tech which IEEE "goes on to connect to Facebook." The application describes a plan to "launch a satellite named Athena that would test the use of high-frequency millimeter wave radio signals." Many in the cellular industry are using the technology to "build next-generation 5G networks with more speed and capacity." A satellite broadband service "using such high-frequency signals" could potentially "outdo Elon Musk's SpaceX, which currently hopes to offer gigabit-speed through its planned Starlink service, as well as competitors like the Richard Branson-backed OneWeb."

MANUFACTURING

Commerce Department: Factory Goods Orders Up 1.6% In March.

Reuters (5/3, Mutikani) reports that the Commerce Department announced on Thursday that "New orders for US-made goods rose more than expected in March, boosted by strong demand for transportation equipment and a range of other products." The department said that "factory goods orders rose 1.6 percent, the Commerce Department said on Thursday," while "data for February was revised up to show orders jumping 1.6 percent instead of the previously reported 1.2 percent increase." The increase beats expectations, as "economists polled by Reuters had forecast factory orders increasing 1.4 percent in March." Reuters adds that "orders rose 7.7 percent on a year-on-year basis in March." According to Reuters, "Manufacturing, which accounts for about 12 percent of US economic activity, is being supported by strong domestic and global demand."

STEM EDUCATION

Bayer Fosters STEM Learning With Young Students, High Schoolers.

Kansas City, Missouri's [WDAF-TV](#) Kansas City, MO (5/3) reports that Bayer Pharmaceuticals joined students at Wyandotte High School to teach "younger kids what's so cool about science." Bayer chemist Quamar Salih told WDAF that the effort is meant "to further some STEM education, and provide some fun, and pique the interest of some students." In addition to the School Day at the K event for younger students, Bayer also issued a grant to Wyandotte High "for their Science Ambassador program where students learn and then present the information to students across the metro."

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Texas' Bush, Hobby Airports Take Part In LAANC Expansion.**
- **FAA: Pilot Error Behind Most Close-Calls At SFO.**
- **Airbus Looks To Trim Costs From CSeries Suppliers, Including Bombardier.**
- **GAO: NASA Cost, Schedule Performance Has "Deteriorated" Significantly.**
- **Aerospace Suppliers Exploring Blockchain Technology For Supply Chain, Parts Tracking.**

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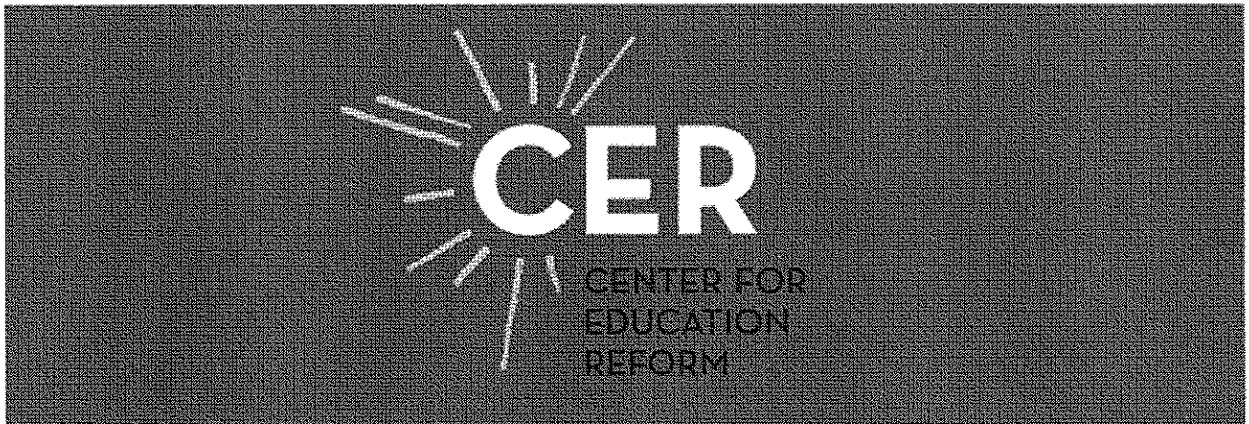
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The Aerospace States Association is an association of state Lt. governors and state government officials fostering state aerospace growth and STEM workforce development. For more information, please see www.aerostates.org or contact GarelickBell@aerostates.org.

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May 8, 2018

National Charter Schools Week 2018, Day 3:

The UNIONS, and their impact on Teachers

Recognizing charter schools as well as those who enable their progress on this #TeachersDay 2018 must include a recognition of those that stand in the way of yet more progress- the National Education Association and the exceptionally hostile American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

It's no secret these two groups have always opposed and spread falsehoods about charters, working hard to convince teachers that they don't serve kids. That has largely failed, but lately, the rhetoric and attacks by the union bosses have taken a troubling, destructive turn. Their increased hostility can only be a result of one thing – a threat to their power. Charter schools have gained strength and acceptance across the nation, threatening the unions' power, influence, money and membership. NEA membership declined in 27 states last year. The AFT membership fell by 69,000 in 2016. And within a few short weeks, the US Supreme Court will decide in Janus vs AFSCME if the US constitution intended for union fees to be involuntarily extracted from the nation's teachers. (We think our Founders did not).

But rather than evolve and adapt to changes in the 180-year-old factory model system of education, rather than create a new path for teachers that supports their growth over mandating uniformity and lock step acceptance of rules, they have dug in their heels and decided character assassination and anti-charter propaganda is best, even declaring unfathomably that the charter school movement is rooted in racism and in the Jim Crow politics of the South's past!

Over at their palatial building on 16th Street, NW in Washington the NEA has been sending missives out to teachers based on last year's policy statement that – in the union mind and the union mind only - it ~~is~~ jeopardize[s] student success, undermines public education and harms communities” and thus they must “arm our communities and our educational professionals with the tools and voice we all need to ensure a better future for our youth.”

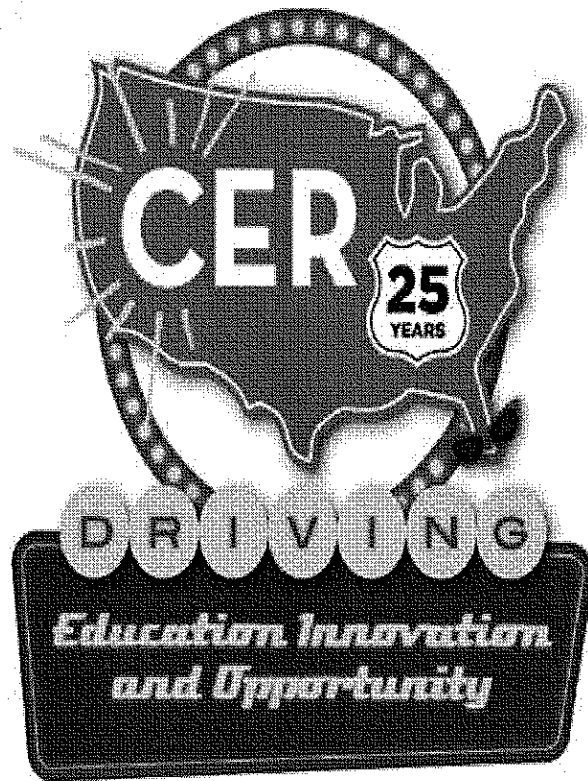
Of course, those tools should be making sure every child gets a great education no matter what the vehicle, but that would never occur to a union who derives its power from mandatory assignment and forced membership.

As absurd and as unfounded as their comments and actions are, they must not go unchallenged. Nor should we ignore that they have tried to tie their school-funding/teacher-pay protests to charters. Make no mistake, these walkouts, sickouts and strikes are intended to build their union, pushing charter school teachers to follow them. Many have called them out in the news and in podcasts with important education leaders.

The good news is that there is help for charter schools and their teachers who want to resist the forced actions of unions to take over these life-saving schools.



The really good news however is that teachers love the autonomy and focus that charters allow them to teach and innovate without being bound by union rules that only hamstring those efforts. That's why well over 90% of charter schools remain non-union and, as a result, retain the freedoms and flexibilities entailed in that independence. As such, charter schools continue to outperform traditional public schools at a rate that has helped drive advances in learning and pedagogy. Charter schools change lives, thanks to the teachers in them. And, today, on Teacher Appreciation day as well as Day 3 of [#CharterSchoolsWeek](#), that's worth celebrating!



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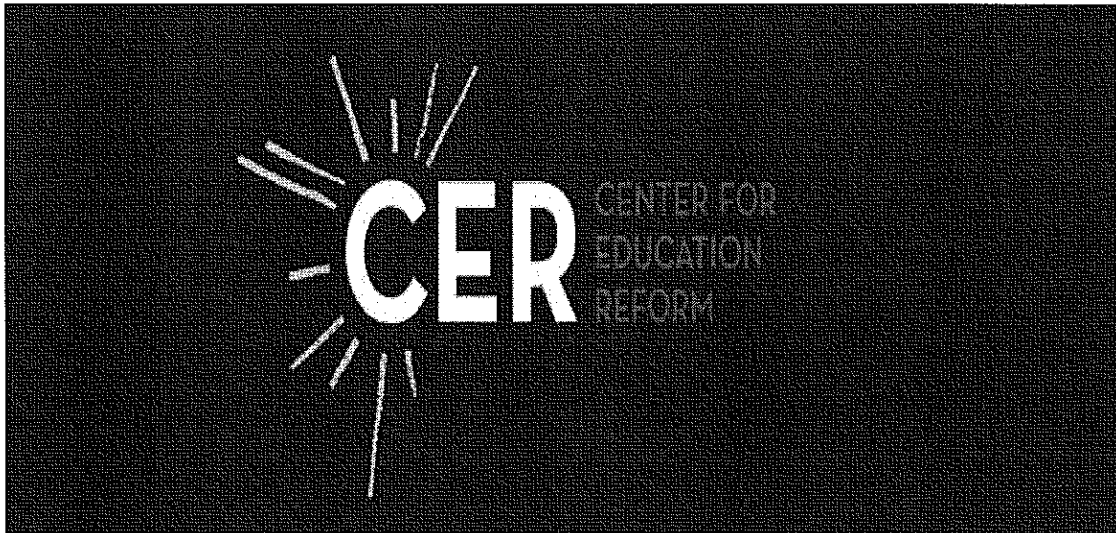
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GUBERNATORIAL RACES PUT ED FRONT-AND-CENTER. Who are the education innovation and opportunity candidates? With [36 gubernatorial races](#) at stake, and CER's ED50 ramping up to serve you in the generals, your CER NEWSWIRE will highlight key races & what opportunity voters should know about each candidate from now until the final election day.

CALIFORNIA. In the Golden state, the front runner's gold is clearly the teachers unions, who endorsed Lt. Gov and former San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom because he says stuff like edreforms such as charters are an attack on public education. Antonio Villaraigosa believes in choice through charter

schools, which earned him the endorsement of California charter advocates and some of their biggest financial backers.

But the State's two leading Republican candidates are polling ahead of Villaraigosa. Businessman John Cox is pretty silent on education opportunity, and Assemblyman Travis Allen is a fierce advocate of educational choice. They are polling at 18 and 16 percent respectively ahead of Villaraigosa's 9%.

GEORGIA. The winner of May 22nd= 2s Democratic primary, Stacey Abrams says educational choice is "diversion of funds to private schools" that "[undermine] our government's responsibility." (Hmmm, you mean the responsibility to educate kids which they can't do in most states and communities, Stacey?)

The Republicans will run off Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and Secretary of State Brian Kemp in July both of whom have supported education opportunity. Kemp also supports military vouchers.

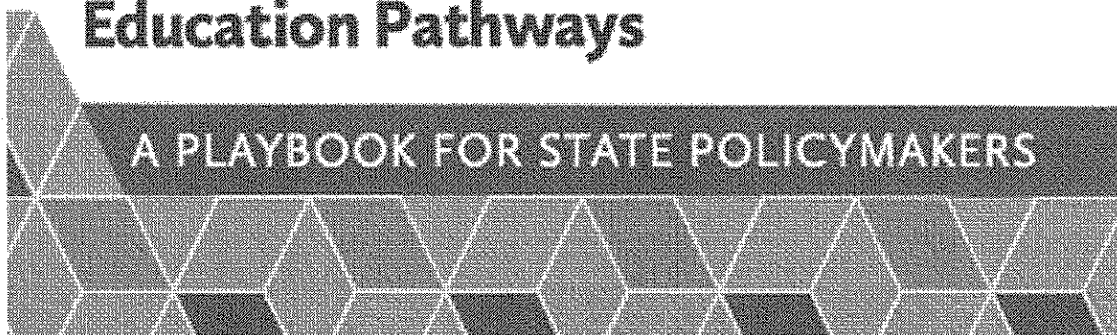
UNIONS GEAR UP (BRACE) FOR JANUS. The U.S. Supreme Court will deliver a decision in Janus v. AFSME sometime in June, and true to form, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is focused on how to mitigate membership losses that will be inevitable if the Court rules in favor of Janus. AFT says it will lose members (aww, darn) and is buying up advertising to scare people that this decision is terminal... for... exactly who? Imagine if those funds were given back to the teachers who can't make enough money in the prime of their lives thanks to A) the policies they lobby for and B) the dues they extract.

GET THE DETAILS with the latest Reality Check w/Jeanne Allen with guest Colin Sharkey, EVP of the Association of American Teachers, the largest non-union professional association for teachers. Colin is uniquely qualified to comment on the case and its implications for the public sector and the teaching profession. Mark Mix, the head of the National Right to Work

Legal Defense Fund, also talks about the case he helped to take all the way to the Supreme Court.

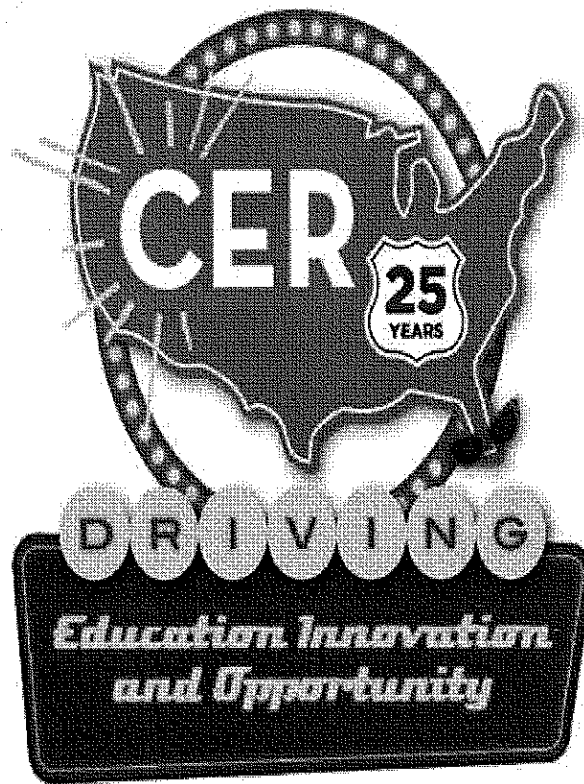
EXCEL IN ED PLAYBOOK. Shout out to the Foundation for Excellence in Education for producing the first-ever playbook for state policymakers defining the case for strengthening career and technical pathways through cross-sector partnerships. Let's strive to help learners at all levels, particularly those ill-served by traditional schooling all these years.

Building Cross-Sector Partnerships to Support Career and Technical Education Pathways



STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING IN NORTH CAROLINA? Could a new funding model mean greater impact, and more money going to teachers students and classrooms in NC? The NC budget includes a 6-7% pay increase for teachers and principals, performance pay provisions for additional bonuses, increases for all education related growth and even includes a provision allowing property tax dollars to fund public schools or public charter schools directly outside district lines. Consider the impact of this on teachers, who recently took to the streets to protest what they get paid. If money flows to schools, the potential for more and better funding opportunities for teachers is enormous. Think about it!

JOIN US! Recognized for their accomplishments in ensuring the creation and advancement of opportunities and innovation across the education landscape, the 8 honorees for CER's 25th Anniversary are change agents, innovators, and leaders of breakthrough options for learners at all levels. They will receive their awards and recognition for their unique accomplishments at the Center's Silver Anniversary Summit & Celebration, October, 25 – 26, 2018 in Miami, Florida, "The Road to Innovation for ONE America." Sit back and watch who's driving opportunity & innovation!

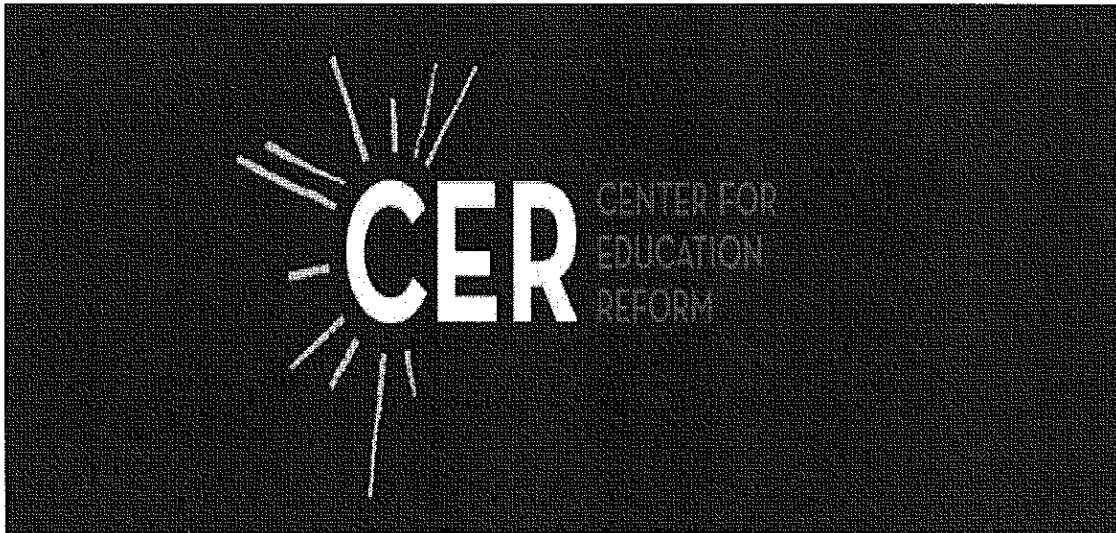


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MASS MILESTONE. Recalling amazing milestones in educational change (something that all too many today think is too hard to pursue) the Pioneer Institute reminds of the 25th anniversary of the landmark 1993 Massachusetts Education Reform Act (MERA), the act which ushered in standards, testing and charter schools. "People should remember Governor Weld's extraordinary K-12 education leadership," writes Jamie Gass, director of Pioneer's Center for School Reform.

"...in MERA's early years, state educrats repeatedly tried revolt-of-the-clerks tactics to subvert the law's intent. When these flaky functionaries promulgated

draft English standards that included Ebonics, Weld and legislative leaders responded by radically overhauling the state education governance structure to hold the bureaucrats accountable.”

“[Weld] appointed his former gubernatorial rival and firebrand Boston University President, John Silber, to chair the state Board of Education. Just as Weld had planned, Silber fed misbehaving state educrats bucketsful of cod liver oil. It was Weld's tough-minded board appointees who redirected the policy conversations on standards, testing, accountability, and charter schools. (Happy Silver Anniversary, MERA. It was CER's first year in business and we remember the work well!)

EDTECH IS THE MEANS, NOT THE END. An accomplished edtechie takes the case to Forbes.com this week in “EdTech Should Be Only A Means, Not An End, For Your Local Schools” –about EdTech and what it means, or should, and the danger of it becoming a fad defined more by owning the latest in hardware bells and software whistles, and less by its true value. Adam Geller, Founder & CEO of Edthena sums it all up nicely with this simple question: “Why is the conversation about the classroom technology we want to possess instead of about the student learning we hope to see?” And answered with this equally simple statement: “The goal for students isn't technology-centered learning. It is problem-centered learning using various types of high-tech and low-tech tools.” 0

Agreeing agreeably even if we don't always agree. The New York Times kicked up some dust last week when it ran a piece titled “[Charter Schools Have a Betsy DeVos Problem](#),” (see [last week's Newswire](#) for our take on the matter). But you don't have to be a DeVos or Trump supporter to see the danger in that argument. To wit, Minnesota's Joe Nathan – a self-described Paul Wellstone-Hubert Humphrey liberal and student community organizer Saul Alinsky – who while noting his disagreement with the EdSec on many issues, pointed out the value of left-right coalitions in winning approval of important ideas (Joe was a leading force in crafting nation's first public charter

school law in Minnesota). "Isn't one of the longtime lessons of America that broad coalitions can help produce progress, though coalition members disagree on many things?" Joe concluded, and to which we say "Bravo!" That's what happens when you put kids first, and adult egos away. Thank you, Joe, for reminding us and the Times that we can agree to disagree on some things and still be united on education opportunity. That's why Joe Nathan is one of CER's 25th Anniversary Silver Honorees for his commitment always putting principle ahead of politics.

NEVADA PRIMARY NOTES. Educational choice is at the heart of the Nevada gubernatorial primary. Democrats Steve Sisolak, who served on the state Board of Regents, and Chris Giunchigliani, a special education teacher for more than 30 years, are vying for their party's nomination for governor to replace Gov. Brian Sandoval, while Republicans will choose between (among others) Attorney General Adam Laxalt, and State Treasurer Dan Schwartz.

Schwartz has vowed to "not sign a single bill until he has a parental choice [funding] bill on his desk," while Sisolak has said he'd donate his salary to charity until the schools are "turned around." Laxalt, whose father was Senator Paul Laxalt and a respected leader by both parties in the 80s, is far ahead in the race. His edreform pedigree is that he successfully defended the constitutionality of the state's school choice program and Schwartz wrote the regulations for it. (Laxalt's campaign is actually using the Dems' education experience against them pointing out that "...both tout themselves as education champions based on their long political careers and involvement in education, while at the same time complaining about how broken our education system — the one they've been overseeing for decades — remains today." Point taken.). Serving as a backdrop for all of this on the Democratic side, is the discord between the statewide teachers union and the Clark County affiliate which has extended to its gubernatorial endorsements. Although Giunchigliani served as the president of both the Clark County Education Association (1983–87) and the Nevada State Education Association (1987–91),

she only secured the endorsement of the latter, with the local union endorsing Sisolak instead and going on the attack against one of their own.

One question for Nevada voters, as posed by the 74, is not whether Sandoval's successor will continue to prioritize education, but how and by how much.

Our question however, is a bit more pointed.

Which candidate will be the leader in ensuring that personalized, educational opportunities are not only protected and advanced but multiplied? Only time will tell. But one thing is certain - Nevada's rapidly rising enrollment and too few great educational opportunities threaten its economic health and the welfare of countless families.

They don't call it "Real Clear Policy" 0 for nothin'. Friend, colleague, fellow edreform pioneer (and honorary co-chair of CER's Silver Anniversary Summit) Gov. Jeb Bush, and Steve Klinsky, Founder and CEO of Modern States Education Alliance, offer a compelling plan that would lower the cost of tuition (by up to 25 percent) and create an immediate "on ramp" to college for students. [Read more...](#)

BREAKING. CER announced last week its illustrious first Co-Chairs of the October 25-16th Silver Anniversary Summit & Celebration, "Opportunity, Innovation & the Road to ONE America," taking place Miami, FL. Check it out! The event co-chairs will lead the summit in developing strategies that fuse together collective efforts in education reform and innovation across every juncture. The summit will be a unique chance to mix and mingle with the leading lights of modern education reform, and most importantly, to learn about how to advance opportunity and innovation in the 21st century.

You can always use a Reality Check. This week Jeanne talks with Carol D'Amico Executive Vice President of Mission Advancement and Philanthropy with Strada Education Network (SEN). [Carol's background](#) as a nationally

recognized expert in designing and leading strategies related to higher education, workforce development and business-led involvement with education reform has led her to her unique position at SEN where, since 2013, she has played a leading role in developing national and state-based philanthropic initiatives involving the higher education, business and workforce development sectors. Listen online at edreform.com/realitycheck.

The AFT: coming to a town near you. One might call her an “uninvited co-conspirator” but that would be mean. Still, what else can you say about AFT president Randi Weingarten who last week inserted herself into Rhode Island politics by travelling to Providence to lobby for a \$250 bond issue and to buddy up with the Providence Teachers Union which is stewing over stalled contract negotiations – which we’re sure Randi’s will help resolve given her calming presence wherever she goes.

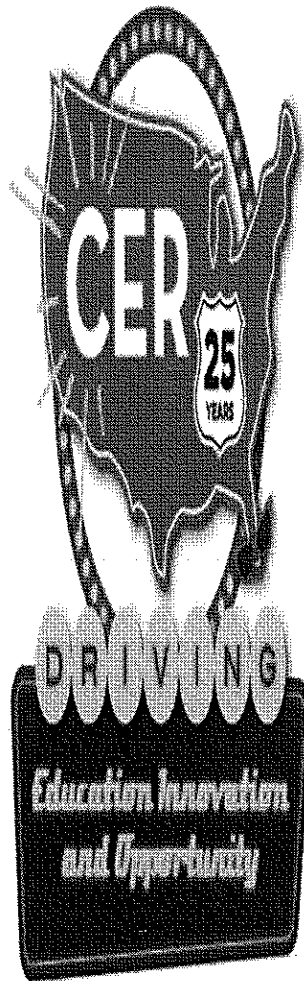
Don't forget! Meet us in Miami Oct. 25-26 for our Silver Anniversary Summit + Celebration. More info at edreform.com.



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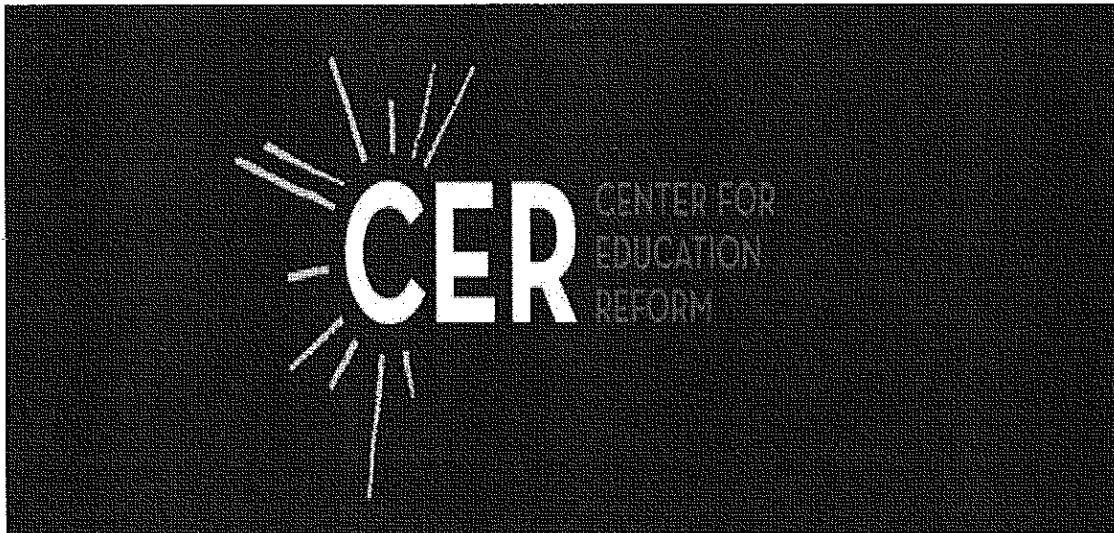
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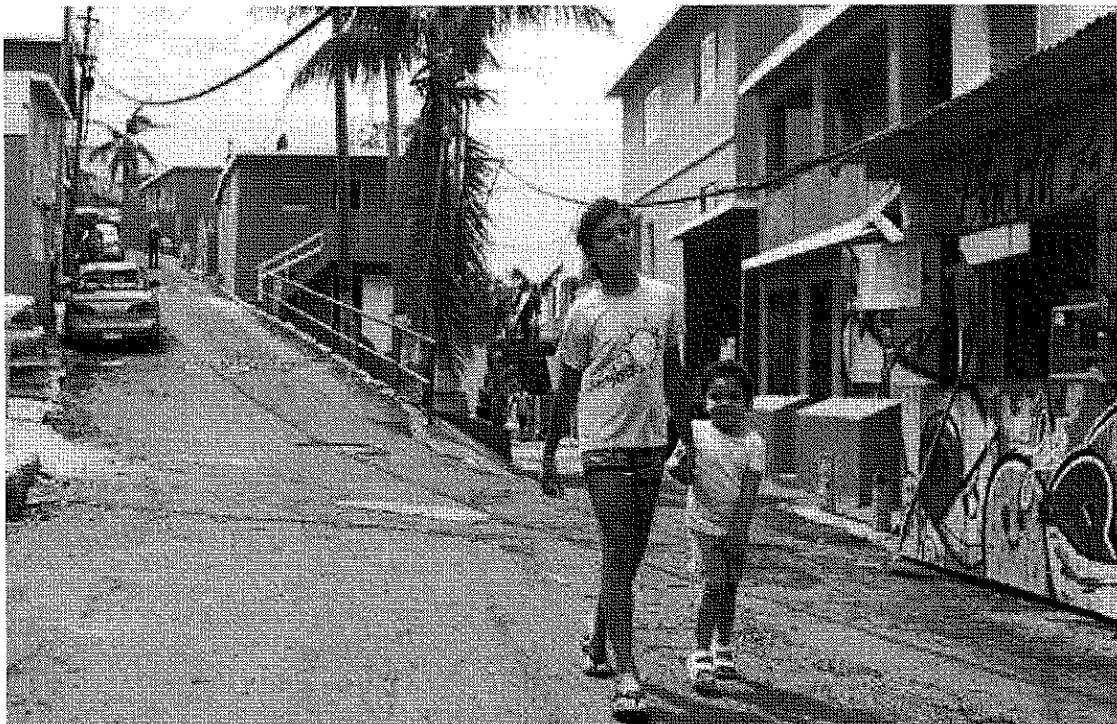
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A NEW HOPE FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS' FREEDOM? The President's nominee to fill the vacancy that Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy will create is Brett Kavanaugh, whose long history of rulings and opinions on education issues may allow for progress and real change for religious schools and school equity: *[Does A Justice Kavanaugh Mean That Blaine Amendments Are History?](#)*

A SETBACK IN PUERTO RICO. A frustrating turn of events in Puerto Rico where the hopes and plans to increase educational opportunities and innovations are being held up a judge's ruling that private school scholarships

violate Puerto Rico's Constitution and that only the University of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico's municipalities can operate "*alianza*" (i.e. charter) schools.

Sadly, this is another case of putting children last when it comes to meeting their educational needs and, with hope, will only be a temporary set-back in delivering Gov. Rosselló's hugely needed, and hugely promising reforms. The good news is that we've seen this movie before, and the flawed decisions of courts from Washington state to Florida are usually based on education powers in constitutions not legislative powers, which in most Constitutions take precedence. Check out this review, for example, from former U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement, about a similar issue claimed but not litigated in Kentucky. We'll keep you posted.



NEA: THE "NOT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION." Somehow the NEA thought it appropriate to dedicate nearly two-thirds of the resolutions at its annual conference last week to everything BUT education? What are some of the NEA's priority issues? Here's a sample. Ensuring that Banana Republic doesn't

advertise with the union. Creating a toolkit to press for moratoria on charter school authorizations by bodies other than locally elected school boards. Advocating for lower interest rates and affordable housing programs for educators. And planning at least one action to shut down an immigration detention center, a Customs and order Patrol office, or an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office (and recruiting at least 500 educators to participate in the action who are willing to be arrested and not bailed out of jail for a week!).

AFT ALSO OUT OF TOUCH. As the AFT gears up for its rollicking annual convention and demagoguery fest we thought we'd brief you on the issues they'd be debating this year...that is until we looked at the list of a whopping 91 resolutions from 13 committees that are more appropriate to a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly than they are to addressing the educational needs of America's children and families. To be fair, they do have an "Educational Issues Committee" but things go sideways fast when we get to the committees on Healthcare, Human Rights, International Relations, Labor and the Economy, Political Action ("Resolution No. 53 'Rev It Up:' Register, Educate, Vote!") and Organizing and Collective Bargaining. Suffice it to say they will be discussing a lot of things, most of which have little or nothing to do with educating children. If you are so inclined, you can read every word of every resolution [here](#).

NOTE TO UNIONS: You're supposed to be looking for ways to improve your standing after Janus not get farther away from the mission upon which you were founded.

HEARING IT DIRECTLY FROM MARK JANUS. Along with many of our most respected colleagues, we've been glued to the Janus v. AFSCME litigation proceedings since the beginning. We've [covered](#), [interviewed](#) and reported on the subject. But nothing compares to hearing it from the horse's mouth. [Here's](#) Mark Janus explaining his "why" after the historic decision.

TO NBC: NOT TO SAY, 'WE TOLD YOU SO' BUT... The Grade, by Alexander Russo, offers up a great article over the irresponsibly story alleging charter schools are creating "white flight" from traditional public schools. The contention is absurd, and we said so, but the Grade goes even further. A very brief synopsis of its critique: *"...unfortunately, the [NBC/Hechinger] piece fails badly at its larger attempt, which is to assert that this kind of charter school is a significant problem nationally. Despite all efforts to make it seem otherwise, the data presented in the story do not support the claim that segregated white charters are a big problem."* Read the full article here.

COMPETITION. Pennsylvania's Bensalem school district hired a consultant to tell them why so many families were choosing charter schools over district schools. The consultant's explanation: with charter schools as an option for families, districts must compete for students, which means they have to improve in areas where they are lacking – be that in performance or programs or in working with parents. "Of course," the article concludes correctly, "competition is what the charter school law was supposed to produce — because competition drives excellence." = 2

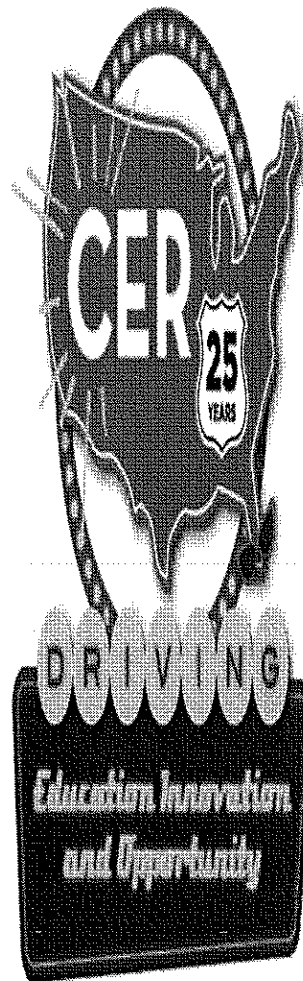
THE ROAD TO INNOVATION IS PAVED WITH SILVER... This week we are pleased to announce the addition of Arizona State University as a partner in CER's Silver Anniversary Summit. We're grateful for the pathbreaking leadership of ASU and it's visionary president Michael Crow in their myriad endeavors. Start your engines and make your way to Miami on October 26th! Registration opens this week!



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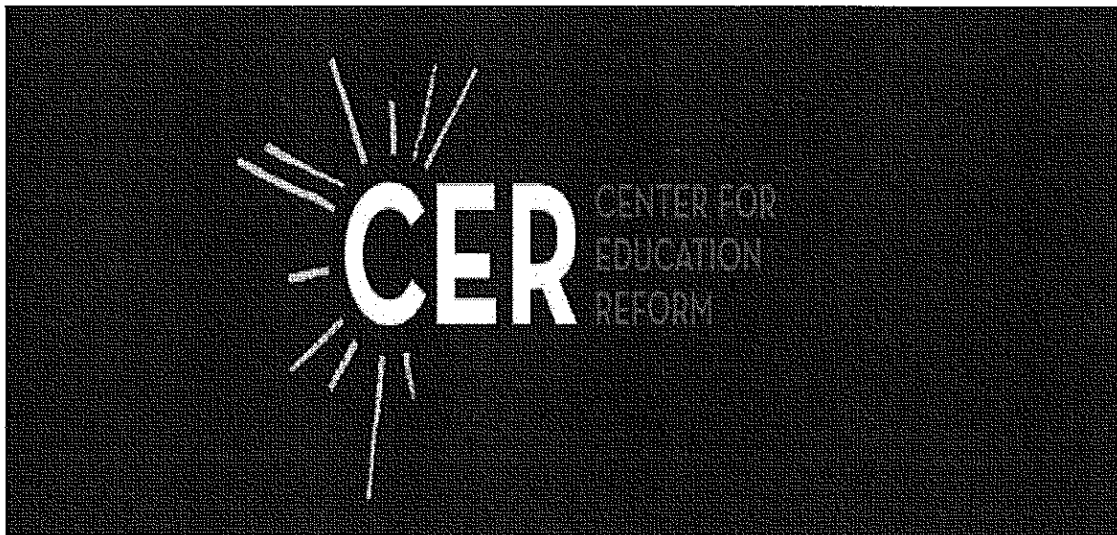
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POLITICS AS USUAL. As if on cue to lend credence to the wisdom of the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* decision (which frees individuals from being forced to fund unions they don't support) last week's AFT annual meeting more closely resembled the quadrennial national party conventions than a gathering of teachers devoted to education and learning. Not only was the AFT's laundry list of resolutions laced with criticism of the current administration, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and current Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders all showed up to rally the troops and lead the charge toward political victory in November and beyond!!! Also joining in the AFT's pep rally and cheerleading tryouts were noted labor bosses, Lee

Saunders (AFSCME), Lily Eskelsen-Garcia, (NEA), and Mary Kay Henry (SEIU). Notably absent – any talk of meaningful reform of schools and everyone whose ideas, opinions, or political leanings don't conform to the union leaders' views of America.

THE WRONG RESPONSE. Of course much of the AFT's focus was on the biggest issue of concern to parents and children across the country: the impact of Janus on the union! Leading the way in the torches-and-pitchforks rally was AFT president Randi Weingarten who was= on a tear orating, among other things, about how "They [the infamous and dangerous "they"] have attacked us and perverted and weaponized the First Amendment, the freedom of speech in a way that no one recognizes."

SCHOOLYARD SCUFFLE. There's never been any love lost between Nevada's competing teachers unions – Clark County Education Association (CCEA) and the new National Education Association of Southern Nevada (NEA-SN) – but now their relationship has devolved into a playground hair-pulling affair complete with name-calling and fit-throwing. The problem comes down to who's taking members away from whom and is best explained by an impartial observer who says it's all about money. "I hate to be so crass to say it that way, but if you lose 10,000 members that's money that's gone." Offers another observer: "The only word that comes to my mind is incompetency." Oh well. If nothing else, at least the unions' priorities are nicely aligned with their national counterparts.

A BIG CHANGE IN THE BIG EASY. After hurricane Katrina back in 2005 Louisiana abolished its old, failing, school system in favor of a system of charter schools. So how has it worked out? As *The New York Times* reports "...academic progress has been remarkable. Performance on every kind of standardized test has surged." A caution is in order, however. The Time's piece was sparked by the state returning schools to "local control" – to the Orleans Parish School Board, for example which has historically opposed giving any power to schools or autonomy to individuals – and threatens to be a step

toward a return to the structure, and mindset, that doomed New Orleans students to violent and chronically failing schools before Katrina.

NOW THERE'S A THOUGHT. A well-reasoned piece out of New Mexico where an op-ed – "Bureaucracy stifles innovation at NM schools" – points to the need for an education system that provides "innovative solutions that fit local needs? 6we should be asking, what does your local community need from its graduates and what experiences will prepare them for the future? Or, how can we give students real-life internship experiences that teach students the skills they need to be prepared in our ever-changing workforce?" Here, here!

THOSE DARN PARENTS. It won't come as a shock to learn that as enrollment in charter schools in North Carolina rises, and attendance in the state's traditional public schools falls – it's down, for the third straight year, to 81 percent and falling fast – the status quo sees a conspiracy afoot to "dismantle public schools." But when you open the gates and people can leave = 2 and they do – it says something about the existing offerings. Advocates of traditional public school shouldn't complain but figure out how to keep students without calling parents undemocratic or accusing them of trying to dismantle the public schools simply because they their kids educated to their own needs.

1. 2010年10月1日起实施的《中华人民共和国招标投标法实施条例》规定，招标人应当根据招标项目的特点和需要编制招标文件。招标文件应当包括下列内容：(一)招标公告或者资格预审公告；(二)投标人须知；(三)评标办法；(四)合同条款及格式；(五)投标文件格式；(六)技术标准和要求；(七)招标项目的技术规格、性能、数量、质量、交货、验收、付款、售后服务等要求；(八)其他需要载明的内容。招标人不得在招标文件中设定歧视性条款或者限制条件，不得以不合理的条件限制、排斥潜在投标人或者投标人。招标人应当合理确定招标文件的发售时间，不得少于5日，自招标文件开始发售之日起计算。

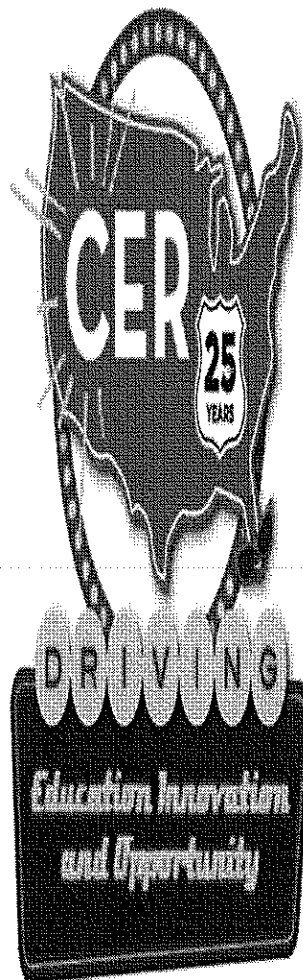
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